

The Grapevine

Bi-monthly Newsletter of Auswide Motorhome Club Inc. Phone 1300 13 15 14

Coming together was the Beginning – Staying together is Progress
Working together is Success

Volume 14

Issue 1

www.auswide.asn.au

February 2012

Bass Strait Drifters – Evandale Village Fair weekend – 24/25/26 Feb., 2012.

Even though February is to be a very busy month of activities for our chapter, with the Anniversary Rally at Bridport, and Primrose Sands Country & Western earlier in the month, we are continuing our attendance and assistance at the Evandale Village Fair and National Penny-farthing Championships, which has now become an annual event following the last 2 years, and also our much appreciated help to the St Andrews Church Group. It is of great assistance to the very small church committee of 5 that are desperately trying to continue the upkeep and maintenance of this great little old church.

To update those that may not know, we go to and camp at the St Andrews Uniting Church – the one on the Western side of the main High St – (the church on the Eastern side of the street, almost opposite is also St Andrews ?? - don't know what was going on in Evandale in the 1800's ??)

– it's about 50 metres before the Post Office corner on the opposite side.

We have the whole church grounds for our use and they are reasonably large and level and close to all the action - the town centre, the Fair, the Races, the Pubs. There are 2 toilets (Ladies and Gents) and water, sorry no power. Arrive Friday, enjoy the Fair Saturday, depart Sunday - usually a tour of the church is arranged for us if we want, it is a very old, very nice little church.

All the money we take for the site fees goes to the small church committee to assist them to maintain the church, and they do need all the help they can get.

On Saturday, about 7 / 7.30 AM some of us assist the "Fair" committee to get the "track" ready (a triangular section of the town streets is closed for the event) – put bunting up, erect flag poles, put out crowd control ropes, etc.,

plus anything to help, easy light work, and also anybody that wants to assist with a 2 hour roster sometime during the day as a "crowd control" marshal at crossings around the track is very much appreciated. In return, the Fair committee give all who assist a Gate Ticket for free entry to the Fairgrounds, usually \$10 to get in.

Also you can dress up if you like and be part of the activities (Barb take note, you can use that garb.)

For anybody that has never been to this day, it is great day, - the National Penny-farthing Cycling Championships are conducted over the day, starting at 9.30 AM with the novelty races, finishing with the National Championship final at about 3.45 PM. There will be riders from all over the world, and, yes some are 'our age'. Then there is the FAIR – many stalls, food vans, entertainment, bands, street strollers in heritage garb, vintage cars and bikes, steam engines, etc., etc., - just a great country day.

ALL are welcome, the more that attend the more we can help the church committee.

Apple Islanders and CMCA also attend and share Morven Park, the football ground, about ½ a km north of the small town centre. – Any Apple Islanders are also welcome to volunteer assistance.

Enquiries or any one that wants to pre-advise their willingness to assist with the track setup or marshalling can phone Terry Brooks on 0419 581 800, or Judy Nichols on 0427 727 511.

That date again – February 24/25/26

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President: Doreen Watts (Leo)	02 6953 5541
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Sydney Sundowners (Wollongong / Gosford)	
President: Judy Hawkins (Brian)	02 4261 9211
Secretary: Ken Calder (Elaine)	02 4271 2346
	Email snagskc@gmail.com
Mid coast dolphins (Mid North Coast)	
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Secretary: Shirley Billings (Ken)	0425 733571

QUEENSLAND	
Coral Coasters (Bundaberg Area)	
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VICTORIA	
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

What are we doing wrong? We are not recruiting enough new members to replace those leaving Auswide as they have sold their motorhome, are unable to continue their membership, or do not want to belong for whatever reason. AUSWIDE is not the National & Branch Committees AUSWIDE is YOU the members. We all need to think of ways to attract new members, we need to come up with a better options or package, not come up with the common reason, CMCA is too strong in our area. Many of our members belong to both organisations, some only to get the glossy monthly magazine full of paid advertising and a few interesting articles, I keep getting told that we do not want to be another CMCA, then what do we want to be, YOU THE MEMBERS are the life blood of AUSWIDE, you have to tell your committee what you want or what you want AUSWIDE to be.

We would like to devote a section of the Grapevine where members can write about their experiences while travelling this great country, articles could be as small as ¼ column [100 words] to a full column [400 words] or more. Articles could be about interesting places, people, or funny experiences, they would be published as space became available. We would like to hear members thoughts on this.

Having talked to various members and having been involved in Branch election of officers I am amazed that some members are forced to take on more than one position under threat of not being able to fill committee positions, therefore no branch, and ultimately NO AUSWIDE, members are put on the spot to take a committee position under threat that the branch will sink into the doldrums. If we are unable to fill Branch Committee positions, where are we going to get members to fill National Committee positions.

Some members are better equipped to take on a particular position, this does not mean that 1 position is more important than another, a branch is not an individual effort, it is a team effort, if Branch members were able to accept a Committee position without feeling that they were going to get stuck with it for an indefinite period, then we might have the situation that

Branch Committees regularly gets new blood, this injection of new people and ideas would be good for the branch and Auswide.

We are an organisation with travelling members, sometimes this is the reason members give for not being able to take a Committee position, if you hold a committee position you are not required to attend every venue or function, there are others that will gladly fill in for you in your absence and maybe then they will better understand the branch function and be better equipped to take on a position at a later date.

Auswide has 14 branches Nationally, each require 4 people to form a committee, a TOTAL of 56 members, AUSWIDE Nationally has about 550 members. I know that some members we never or very rarely see, I know that some branches have limited members but somehow WE, and YOU, have to address this problem. When you get your membership renewal notice this year on the back is a very simple survey for you to complete, please do this and add anything you wish.

It is interesting to note that the “happenings” section of the CMCA Wanderer is to be axed, this is the equivalent of our “branch Activity Report”, and is being done purely as a cost saving exercise otherwise they are faced with excessive postage costs, while we have no intention of reducing the size of the Grapevine, and are not in the same league as CMCA we too have to watch our expenses and need to look to the future of sending our Grapevine to members where possible electronically, or as an easy accessible download from the Auswide web site so it does not overload members download capacity.

Now for some more interesting news, the National Rally this year will be in Victoria at Numurkah approx. 35km. north of Shepparton between the 9Th. and the 15Th. of October. I have inspected the site and I am sure you will agree after arriving that it has all we need, good facilities, hall and kitchen, with a parking area of crushed metal.

(Continues Page 7)

BRANCH PROGRAMS

NEW SOUTH WALES

BIDGEE BANDITS (Ulladulla Area)

Feb 7-10 Oallen Forde bush camp no fac.
March 6-8 Jugiong show ground donation
t/lets, water.

April 12 -16 Canawindra Balloon Festival
?TBA

Regards
Norma
President

HUNTER VALLEY VENTURERS (Maitland Area)

FEBRUARY 3-5 Nords Wharf Oval
From Swansea travel South on Hwy
turn into Nords wharf road then down to
Government rd.-turn right to Oval
Cost \$10 pv/pn General Meeting

MARCH 2-4 Williamtown-Murrook
From Williamtown-300mtrs past Banksia
Grove
All facilities-swim pools
Cost \$12 pv/pn

APRIL 6-8 Broke Common
Camp area opposite service stn
Toilets-Town water
Cost \$3 pp/pn Easter Raffle

MAY 4-6 Lake Liddell Recreation Area
New England Hwy into Hebden rd
and follow signs bring firewood –
showers -toilets- Bring own drinking water
Tank water only- Covered area
Cost \$5 pp/pn General Meeting

JUNE 1-3 Clarencetown Holiday Park
Normal park facilities-Campfires-bring
firewood. No power on riverside
Cost \$12 pv/pn Mini Olympics

JULY 6-8 Stroud Showground
Power -showers-toilets-kitchen facilities-hall
Pub/club-courtsey bus
Costs \$17 pv/pp Buy Swap Sell

SYDNEY SUNDOWNERS

(Woolongong/Gosford)

February 2 – 8

Meet for lunch at Seven Mile Beach National
Park [6km south of Gerringong], then 2 nights
at Oallen Ford or Wog Wog Campground, on
Nowra Braidwood Rd., travel through
Braidwood for overnight at Majors Creek
Recreation Reserve, then 2 nights at Waldrons
Swamp Rest area, then 2 nights at Tathra on
the south coast ending on the 8th. Make your
own way back home.

All except Tathra are free camps, there are 2/3
places at Tathra costs range from \$15, 22, 34
per night, will discuss this when we meet.

March 5-7

Camp Kuring-gai Scout Camp, Holmes Drive
Ebenezer 27km north Windsor on the western
side of Hawkesbury River. \$ 10 pppn all
facilities.

May 4-6

Wingello State Forest free camp, Large grassy
area, toilets.

June 16-17

Appin Scout Camp, enter off Bourke St. No
pwr. Hall, kit, sh, tlts, walks \$6pppn

Safe travelling over the holiday period

Judy & Brian Hawkins

RIVERINA RAGERS(Riverina Area)

QUEENSLAND

SUNCHASERS (Brisbane Area)

January 12-15 – Vacate Monday 16th

Buddina State School: Cnr Tumut and Illuka
St. Buddina. Short walk to beach and shops.
School ground rules apply. Showers and
toilets. \$12pvpn. Pwr available.

**February 24-26 Stinson's Park Christmas
Creek:** \$10pvpn. Grassy sites. Creek and
walks nearby. No showers Campfires allowed.
Electric barbecues. Toilets. No dogs allowed.
NB: Drinking water not available.

TASMANIA

March 23-25 James Sharpe Park Canungra: Approx. 11 km from Canungra on Beechmont Rd. \$4 Pppn. Toilets. No showers. BBQ's. Fireplace. Dogs on leash. On Coomera River.

April 27-29 Mooloolah Country Club: Connection Rd Mooloolah Valley. UBD Sunshine Coast 97-H3. \$10pvpn. Pwr, toilets, no showers. Meals at club house. BBQ area.

May 25-27 Thornton Centenary Park: Camp area 20 Km S. of Laidley. \$22 first two nights then \$22 per night powered, \$11 unpwd. BBQ's, toilets and showers. Fire in brazier. Collect keys from Lake Dyer. NB: **Drinking water not available.**

June 29Jun-1Jul Buddina State School: Cnr Tumut and Illuka St. Buddina. Short walk to beach and shops. School ground rules apply. Showers and toilets. \$12pvpn. Pwr available.

July 27-29 Dayboro Showgrounds: \$10pvpn on pwd. Showers and toilets. Fire in brazier. A short walk to town for provisions. NB: **AGM 1030AM 28July.**

August 24-26Jun Lake Dyer Recreation Park at Laidley.1.5 km NW on Forest Hill Rd: \$22 first two nights then \$22 per night powered, \$11 unpwd.shows. Toilets. Fire pit. BBQs. Walks around Dam and into town. Pets now allowed on trial.

September 21-23 Cooyar Rest Area Cooyar: Walk to toilets. No showers-maybe showers can be purchased at hotel. Electric BBQ's. No Pwr. Meals at pub for those interested. Extend trip to Maidenwell and Benarkin rest area.

October26-28 Heifer Creek Rest Area on Gatton-Clifton Road: toilets. No Pwr. No showers. Very limited water .Ensure adequate supply of drinking water. Campfire allowed.

November 23-25 Dayboro Showgrounds: \$10pvpn on power. Showers and toilets. Fire in brazier. A short walk to town for provisions.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GUMNUTS (Statewide)

APPLE ISLANDERS

February 24, 25,26. Evandale Penny Farthing Championships.(note late date change from 17,18,19)

This quaint Northern Tasmanian Village hosts the Penny Farthing Championships each February. We are able to camp at Morven Park. As you enter the town of Evandale from the North go past the brick water tower and Cambock Lane both on the left, continue on to and turn left into Barkley street,(C 412 to White Hills) then left into Morven Park. We are to park at the northern grassed area between the Hedge and the Pine trees. Toilets, flat parking, water, shops, walks, watching and site seeing, Dogs to be Leashed PLEASE. This is a Public/School/Sports Area.

Footy Club open on the Saturday Night, Bar facilities and BBQ if you wish.

Costs. \$6pvpn. Solos \$4pvpn. No Medical Power available.

Bookings and Venue Hosts, Geoff and Maree Cashion Ph 62437740 Mob 0427095785

March 9,10,11,12 – Fingal Coal Shoveling Festival – Fingal

Apple Islanders Birthday celebration with the dress up letter "E".

A great long weekend not to be missed.

Entering the town of Fingal from the midland highway, turn left into Brown st (Festival signs should be seen here), then proceed over the Railway line to the Football Club Ground entrance which is on the left, (not the road immediately before the Oval) enter the grounds then turn right & travel around the Oval to the Stock Yards go thru the gate on the right (IF IT IS OPEN LEAVE IT OPEN --- IF IT IS CLOSED PLEASE CLOSE IT) we will be camped approx another 200metres on the paddock.

As the paddocks may well be very dry, even Fire Restrictions in place an area for fire pots/ happy hour etc will be provided.

Basically a Bush Camp as there are no facilities at all, toilets are approx 500 metres away from us. Dogs are OK but STRICTLY CONTROLLED PLEASE.

Costs. \$6pvpn. Solos \$4pvpn. No Medical Power available

Bookings & Venue Hosts, Geoff and Maree Cashion Ph 62437740 Mob 0427095785

April 13,14,15 – Kellevie Bush Camp

Turn left at Copping onto Kellevie Rd (C335).
Travel 4.6km to recreational ground.
Take Farm Rd / track on left opposite recreational ground, travel another 1.5km to camp area. (sign on gate says “No Dogs” but our dogs “ARE ALLOWED” – STRICKLY ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES). Large shelter, power / lights by generators, toilets, BBQ, please bring firewood.
Costs. \$6pvpn. Solos \$4pvpn. No Medical Power available
Bookings & Venue Hosts to be advised.

May 18,19,20 – Pelverata Hall

From Huonville take Channel Highway to Woodstock and then on to Pelverata for 8 kms to Hall. Shelter for cards etc. Fireplace outside, please bring firewood.
Costs. \$6pvpn. Solos \$4pvpn. No Medical Power available
Additional activities & venue hosts to be advised.

BASS STRAIT DRIFTERS

(North East Coast Area)

February 17-18-19 Bridgeport

What to bring—

Hat & sunscreen for 3 days of sunshine.
Bathers for swimming at the beautiful beaches.
Walking shoes for a leisurely walk along the foreshore or the new walking track.
Healthy appetite for delicious fresh seafood, ½ price pizzas on Friday night, plus various restaurants & cafes for snacks and great coffee.
Warm, friendly smiles for a relaxed casual weekend to celebrate our 10th birthday!
A few extra \$\$\$ to support the locals!
Please keep receipts to show the council that “happy” campers do spend money in motorhome friendly towns.

At Village Green, Main Street, Bridport for the 10th Birthday Anniversary.
\$5 pv pn. Public toilets. Bookings preferred.

Special Meeting at 1.30 pm Saturday to elect Office bearers, President, Vice President and Secretary.
Ph. Pat Child 63561572 or Rosalie Aylett 63561544

March 16-18 Westbury Show Grounds

St Patrick’s Day Festival

Costs \$10 pv/pn Showers, toilets & hall

Contact Pauline W 63762019/ 0428338511

April 20-22 Meander Hall 12ks from Deloraine

Sat 21 Old time dance. \$7 entry includes Good country supper, good music & good friends

Cost \$10 pv/pwe

Contact Pauline W 63762019/ 0428338511

COASTAL RANGERS (North West Coast Area)

February 24-26 Lake Parangana

March 23-25 Wings’ Park, Gawler

April 27-29 Venue to be decided

Note: Please contact Peter or Elaine in the week before the rally for further details or any changes..

FORESTERS (Central Area)

Feb. 10-11-12 Campania AGM. Bring your own firewood.

March 16-17-18 Lake Leak. Bring your own firewood.

April 20-21-22 Parrattah Recreationl Ground. Bring your own firewood.

May 18-19-20 Campbelltown show ground. Bring your own firewoods.

VICTORIA

EASTERN LAKERS (Bairnsdale Area)

Vic. Roads

Feb, 17-18-19 Christ Church Tarraville map 104 4-E

Mar 17-17-18 Cheynes Bridge bush camp map 82 6-C

Apr 20-21-22 Newry Reserve map 82 8-G

May 18-19-20 Strathfieldsaye Scout Camp map 99 2-F. Could be done as a bush camp Hibernation lunch at 12.30

Jun 16 Victoria Rose Rosedale

Jul 21 Lavender Farm Garfield

Aug 18 Bairnsdale R.S.L.

Sep 14-15-16 Marley Point Yacht Club map 99
2/3 E

Oct 9---15 National Rally Numurkah map 32
3-J

Oct 19-20-21 Garden Party at Bettys map 99
4-C. byo tools and gloves

Nov 16-17-18 Paradise Valley C/park map 82
6-CDec 7-8-9 or 14-15-16 ? Boolarra Pub map
356

GIPPSLAND RAMBLERS

(Warragul Area)

January 27 – 29 Leongatha Scout Hall.

February 24 – 26 Dowton Park, Yarragon.

(To be confirmed)

March 23 – 25 Crossover School

NOTE:- Parking is at the rear of Scout Hall,
Leongatha - no parking in front of hall. Map
enclosed. Limited Power.

Alan Wright Phone 9878 5854

**TREKKERS (Melbourne Area approx
150km radius)**

February 17th-19 Hastings Scout Camp
Melways 154 J8 crn Thornhill St. Hastings.
Toilets,showers,hall,kitchen,some power. Dog
rule applies.

A.G.M. meeting all welcome.

March 16-18 Recreation Reserve
GLENLYON Vic Roads Ref 59 E6

April 20-22 Old Field Day Site Burnewang
Road ELMORE Vic Roads Ref 31 C9

May 18-20 Queens Meadow Caravan Park
Barrack Street HEATHCOTE Vic Roads Ref
45 D8

Then winter Recess June to August

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN continued

The town of Numurkah is well equipped with facilities and an easy 10 min walk. Each issue of the Grapevine will nclude more information on the rally as it comes to hand. The Gippsland Ramblers will be hosting the rally and I am sure you will give them all the assistance they need.

Unfortunately Robert King has been hospitalized for some 3 weeks in December, he is now recuperating at home, we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

National President Brian

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Welcome to the New Year – I hope everyone survived the Christmas and New Year periods safely!

You will find with your February 2012 Grapevine; a pink sheet for RENEWAL of Membership form; it has grown to an A4 (double sided) sheet, with membership details on one side and a survey on the other side. Would you please ‘fill in’ this sheet and return it when you pay your RENEWAL. The checking of Member Information is required to check the accuracy of the “Membership Data Base.

The preferred method of payment is direct to the National Treasurer (as per Renewal Form). The next method would be for Branch Treasurers (or Branch Presidents or Branch Secretaries) to collect the Renewal Fees and your “PINK” sheets. The branch Treasurer can deposit any cash/cheques into the AUSWIDE “National Bank” account and send the Bank Deposit slip along with the “PINK” sheets back to the National Treasures for processing.

Information for GRAPEVINE – the next Grapevine will be the April 2012 issue; all information for this Grapevine is required to be with the GV Editor by 16th March 2012. PLEASE.

Also, please note that members who have NOT renewed the Membership by the Nominated date of 31st March 2012, MAY NOT RECEIVE the April 2012 Grapevine.

I would like to express my thanks to the “Group of People” that fold and put the Grapevines into their envelopes for posting. Again – many thanks.

Jim MARSHALL – National Secretary

BRANCH ACTIVITY REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

BIDGEE BANDITS

Christmas Weekend

Our Christmas Weekend at Milton Showground was attended by twenty three members and two visitors.

On Friday many of us boarded the Milton Ulladulla Ex Servicemen's courtesy bus to have lunch at the Club Restaurant.

We had plenty of entertainment over the weekend as we shared the grounds with a Southern Area Gymkhana and Camp Draft which was held at the Showground on the Saturday and Sunday.

Several energetic members walked up to town for the Milton Street Markets on Saturday morning for last minute Christmas Shopping and were not disappointed, whilst others practised their bowls ably supervised by our Bowls Coordinators, the two Davids.

Christmas festivities started with Happy Hour on Saturday night and as usual, our Catering Officer, Yvonne and assistant Mick, with many helpers provided a succulent Christmas Feast. After this repast, and midst much frivolity, gifts were distributed by Santa and his Elf. Soon after we were visited by two strangers, weirdly attired (in fact weirdly did not quite cover the description).

After a few beautiful sunny days the showers arrived and so most members departed on Sunday morning for home.

A good time was had by all and may there be many more top gatherings in 2012.

HUNTER VALLEY VENTURERS

We all gathered at Mirrook for our December xmas weekend. We had 33 motorhomes with visitors Stephen and Joy Finlay, Carol and John from Lapworth Sunchasers, Ken and Shirley from the Dolphins. Friday afternoon was the start of food preparations with Allen and Ellie supervising all our kitchen helpers. Saturday morning there was bowls with Ron and Gay coming first and Bobby and Elaine coming second, with JC getting the most out balls. The hall was decorated under Di's supervision, tables set busy kitchen, then ready to serve. An excellent dinner was prepared and thanks to everybody in the

kitchen, for all their effort and hard work. Then Trevor was our compare for the night. We had Mr and Mrs Klaus arrive with a gift for everybody , with the lucky \$5 dollars in Vals, thanks to Derek and Edna. There were special awards for happenings through the year presented from Trevore and Leonie. We then started our entertainment for the evening with the difference in social living conditions with Joy, Ellie, Anita and Di last pregnant again. Then it was Eric and Bob with poetry, a song from the 2 Peters and Ken also sang. We had Margaret as Jullia Gillard, Eric as Tony Abbot and John Cotten as bank manager, with no loans approved. Trevor and Bob did a rendition of "Old Shep" with Ron on the wobble board. We had a gunfight at OK caroul when Noxious comes to town being Derek, Quiet Burp being Peter, lovely Nelly being Val, with the Sheriff hitting town Eric for the showdown. Thanks to Denise for our entertainment and finished with the girls choir doing some numbers. Sunday dawned cleanup time, then morning tea with our xmas cake and slices. Peter Velden celebrated his 86th birthday, Ron and Judy, Ron and Colleen celebrating their wedding anniversaries. We have misplaced our urn that was used at Gresford which was in a blue and pink striped carry bag, could everyone check their vans and garages and please notify committee if found thankyou. Thanks to everyone for making our xmas outing such a great weekend, Merry Xmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year to all, till we meet again Elaine.

RIVERENA RAGERS

SYDNEY SUNDOWNERS

Tasmania Rally

Six of our members met on the 7Th. October for the trip to Melbourne to board the Spirit on the 10Th., stopping at Jugiong where we met Trevor & Leonie Atkins, & Rona Brown who has since joined our Branch, then on to Nagambie for our final stop before boarding on the 10Th. The seas were a bit rough but we

weathered the storm without too much trouble. After disembarking our first o/night was Scotsdale a nice friendly town where we bought some equipment to make the necessary items for the Annual Dinner. The next two nights were spent at Cosy Corner at the Bay of Fires an idyllic spot where 2 of our party tried their hand at fishing. Then Coles Bay where we met George & Barbara Andrews. Our last night was at Triabunna before checking into the Sorell Rally on the 16Th..

There was plenty to keep us occupied at the rally, plenty of bus trips, disc bowls & the local markets on the Sunday or just catching up with old friends.

Leaving the rally we went to Bruny Island spending 2 nights before getting back on the ferry, then heading south to Gordon then north to Cygnet & Huonville, south to Geeveston famous for its wooden sculptures, on to the Tahue Air Walk most impressive. Then The Ida Bay Railway for a ride on the train, not a good day as it drizzled with rain for most of the day. North again going through Huonville, Hobart, Cambridge, Richmond, Oatlands, Campbell Town, heading west through Cressy & Poatina, south past the Great Lakes to Bothwell & Hamilton where we headed for Derwent Bridge to inspect The Wall, started Greg Duncan in 2005 due to be completed in 2015, this is an amazing masterpiece of hand carved huon pine panels by 1 man each panel is 1 metre wide, 3 metres high & 100 mm thick that will span 100 metres when completed. Then to Queenstown, Strahan, headed north again through Rosebury to Cradle Mountain & Dove Lake. After a walk around the lake north again to Wynyard Stanley & Smithtown retraced our path back to Gunns Plains Caves, the only caves with a river running through them, most impressive, cross country to Sheffield, Railton south to Waddamana power station museum, one of the first Hydro power stations in Tasmania then north to Longford up the west side of the Tamar Valley calling at the Hillwood Strawberry farm on the way to George Town & Low Head. We were starting to run out of time so we headed for Ulverstone & the Penguin Markets giving us enough time before boarding the Spirit on the 15Th. for our return trip home. I think we all

had a great time both at the rally & Tasmania.

Our Christmas function and A G M at the end of November was held at Bundilla Scout Camp at Winston Hills a great place with first class facilities, we were well looked after with an invitation to return at any time. Our A G M resulted in the following members being elected, President Judy Hawkins, Secretary Ken Calder, Treasurer Judy Mac Master, Venue Officer Brian Hawkins.

Brian

MID COAST DOLPHINS

QUEENSLAND

CORAL COASTERS

SUNCHASERS

November Outing

Once again we headed out to Thornton near Laidley in the salad bowl area between Brisbane and Toowoomba. All in all we enjoyed the company of the occupants of five motorhomes. We were fortunate to have the company of two visitors -Les and Kathy Bennett who after experiencing a wonderful weekend with us have decided to join the Sunchasers. The south-east corner of Queensland had been experiencing the driest November period since the middle 1800s and a few days before our weekend it rained quite heavily in the area so we were fortunate enough to have green grass and reasonably cool conditions. The previous week had been extremely hot in this area as well as Brisbane itself.

The weekend went very well with lots of talking and catching up with each other. It was an opportunity as well to spend the weekend with Adrian and Gwen Hage who were heading off to the good old US of A for an extended period of time. They are always excellent company and we will miss them very much indeed.

We normally try to have a camp fire at most of our venues this time we decided not to because it would have made conditions a little uncomfortable.

On Sunday we decided to have a casual pre-Christmas dinner get-together at the Mulgowie pub which was about 20 km up the road on our way home. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely and are now looking forward to our next branch activity up at the Buddina School on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane in January.

Brian Galland
(Acting scribe)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GUMNUTS

TASMANIA

APPLE ISLANDERS

On a very warm Friday afternoon members began arriving, in anticipation of our Christmas weekend, to park adjacent to the Calverton Hall, an ideal venue for this special occasion – good parking, suitable size hall with good acoustics, good kitchen facilities, small alcove for the webers, and shops and beach within walking distance.

By late Friday about 40 members had gathered, with another dozen or so expected next day. After tea most sat in the Hall chatting while seven ladies and a few onlookers were engrossed in the “Train Game” at a table. While one player consistently delighted in pressing the “toot!toot! button, others built walls with their dominoes frustratedly waiting to start their train. Gradually the Hall emptied as members drifted off to bed, but those trains continued to run well into the night. The “lock-up man” finally called time about 11.30pm.

Saturday dawned fine but with showers forecast later. Webers were soon fired up and loaded with beef and pork, a large group of men were on spud scrubbing detail and a balloon blow-up was on in the hall. What a transformation was taking place as they were hung and the tables began to be decorated. Puddings were soon simmering in boilers on the stove, cream was beaten and a group of

ladies prepared a wondrous assortment of fresh fruit for the fruit salad and pavs. This social camaraderie is an integral part of the preparations for our Club’s Christmas lunch. An amazing variety of salads began appearing from the vans, meats were carved and the gravy lady had that under control. The remainder of those on the lunch list had arrived and at the allotted one(ish) o’clock (almost on the dot!) all fifty-six members in their Christmas finery were seated in the Hall, just as the forecast “later showers” chose to begin. Well timed!

Thanks were given for the feast we were about to partake of and absent members acknowledged. Main course finished and plates were washed, thenHO! HO! HO! - in from the rain came Santa, accompanied by his elfin assistant. Much laughter ensued as they wandered among the tables distributing presents to members who all swore they had “been good”. Bags emptied and with a final wave Santa strode back out into the rain. Plum pudding, custard, pavlova, fruit salad and cream – dessert was next on the agenda.

All well satisfied, it was time for the Raffle draw. Thanks again go to the two gentlemen mainly responsible for the large number of prizes. Strangely the first prizewinner seemed rather reluctant to accept her prize, somehow convinced those strange shapes were something she didn’t want in her garden. Hope those chairs are comfortable! Several couples were multiple winners, some choosing to keep their prizes while others suggested a redraw. Many happy and lucky members. While some remained in the Hall preparing the teatime platters, chatting or just relaxing, others returned to their vans for ‘siesta’ or went walking to the beach, and day visitor members said their goodbyes. At 6pm those remaining regathered in the Hall for ‘leftovers tea’, the ‘lucky door prize’ draw and prepared for the evening’s entertainment.

From 7.30pm Julie and partner, our regular Christmas weekend entertainers, took to the stage. Music to listen to soon became music to dance to as members twirled around the floor. Four hours later as ‘last dance’ was announced some seemed reluctant for it to end. Whether dancing or observing all seem to have enjoyed the night. Hot drinks and

fruitcake supper concluded the evening with many members remaining to partake and wind down - a successful innovation! Eventually all headed to bed to fall asleep listening to the rain.

Overcast skies greeted on Sunday. While the Hall was being readied for the scheduled 10am AGM, Committee members downed a quick breakfast so they could attend an early morning committee meeting prior to this. No vote was required at the AGM for committee positions. The amount to be donated to the year's charity, Hearts of Hope, was agreed upon and next year's nominated charity chosen. Final clear up of the Hall and cuppa time followed, then a meeting for our new Committee.

Some members had lunch while others chose to have this later at home. By about 2pm all had departed - another great Apple Islanders' Christmas weekend over! We will meet again in 2012. CB.

BASS STRAIT DRIFTERS

COASTAL RANGERS

FORESTERS

VICTORIA

EASTERN LAKERS

October Willow Park

Friday afternoon saw three motor homes arrive at Willow Park, it was a very hot day and every one tried to park in the shade, we used the bbq area as our central meeting place, Kevin called in on the way to Melbourne he and his step daughter are taking it in turns to look after each other for various ailments, hope you both are feeling better.

About seven o'clock grey clouds started to roll in, we stood in the bbq area and were treated to a spectacular thunder and lighting display, we sought shelter when we started to get wet, it rained on and off in the night but no one floated away, so all was well.

There was a mixture of caravans and motor homes parked over night at the park we recognized Eddie as he was leaving to go to

another rally, a very popular half way stop.

John and Lorraine arrived in the motor home at morning tea time, then day visitors Ted and Heather, Betty, Ken and Rosemary, Bob and Glenda all arrived before lunch, it was still raining on and off we didn't do much just caught up on what every one had been doing, talked of our trip to Tasmania the six of us that went all saw different things of interest photos were passed around and destinations spoken about.

Betty bought a spinning wheel and gave Henk a lesson as he said spinning was on his learn to do list now he has retired, every one watched and made comment on how long it would be before a jumper was completed.

Sunday no rain, blue clouds suitable to go for a walk and not get damp, we started to set up for bbq lunch and in drives John and Carol just back on the main land and heading home, once they were set up we invited them to share, no sooner that said and in comes Les and Lois then five minutes later Mike and Penny arrived, news travels Eddie mentioned he saw us so they called in to say hi, as its been a long time between visits.

A wet and some times soggy weekend but enjoyable because of the company, a lazy afternoon talking then we all headed off in different directions to home.

Christmas Weekend

Hi folks

First news letter for the year, our Christmas weekend at the Rawson Caravan Park was set amongst the tall trees, of the high country, dappled shade and bird noise was most pleasant, until we were told Kookaburras meant rain and it did, Eric and Chook visited from the Gippsland Ramblers, great to see them and to hear what others were up to.

It was good to see so many people for our breakup but I was disappointed there was no Christmas atmosphere at the venue. Ted was our fire chief on Friday night and had a fire going so we sat around and talked and told jokes till bed time, late to rise on Saturday some walked to the shop for the paper, or a late breakfast others bought plants.

We walked over to the Stock Yard bistro for our meal, we were half through the meal when it started to rain Bob and Henk tried to dodge the big drops as they ran back to put all

the chairs under cover, by the time we had finished our meal so had the rain. Ted got the fire going again and we kept it company, Santa came with a gift for every one we had some Christmas cake for supper and when it started to rain again we all scattered to our motor homes. It rained all night on and off so the decision was made over breakfast to abandon camp and head home. A pleasant weekend spent with nice people.
Safe Sightseeing LF

GIPPSLAND RAMBLERS

HILL END

(Compiled by Penny Hall)

We arrived early Friday to find Chook going hard with the whipper snipper tidying up after the mowing done by Les. Most of us don't realise how much work some people do to make the place nice for us.

Wow!! What a beautiful day, we sat out the back and the circle kept increasing as more friends arrived, up to 35 members.

In the evening, Irene led us in the singing of some carols, then Mike conducted a Trivia Quiz, with only a couple of points separating all the teams - who copied who ???

Saturday a lot of fun was had decorating the hall with a fantastic collection supplied by Enid.

Maurice caused quite a bit of concern with a 'dicky turn' resulting in a trip to hospital in an ambulance, but returned later after successful tests.

It was good to have Carol and Stan for a few hours, both looking great. Sad to know they no longer have their motor home, but sporting a brand new car.

A terrific dinner was organised, cooked and served by Chook, Lois, Les and friends and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A big thank you to all concerned.

We all kept warm on Sunday morning with cards and constant conversation, followed by the traditional BBQ courtesy of Eric and his crew, before saying our goodbyes, so ending another successful, enjoyable year together with friends.

Merry Christmas to all, "Good Health" and safe travel for 2012.

Penny Hall

VALE – Denis Edward Bradley 15/5/1926 to 19/12/2011

Lived in Luton, England where he was taught hunting (poaching pheasants) and fishing by his uncle before he joined the army at 14 so that he could be in the same regiment as his brother.

He saw action in Africa, Crete, Greece and Germany . After the war he married Janie and together with their daughter Jan they migrated to Adelaide, setting up home in Henley Beach until Janie succumbed to cancer in 1976. He became a nomad, working wherever he could on the West Coast and the Riverland of SA with his base at Blanchetown where he followed his love of fishing. He bought a campervan and travelled with his friends in the Wild Geese International radio club, where we met him and introduced him to Auswide and his life was then full of adventure travelling north to Cairns each winter where he spent many hours fishing along the way. He was a keen photographer particularly of birds and flowers, and every outing he shared his photos around amongst the members on cd's.

A man who loved the great outdoors and who had tremendous strength of character. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.
A Life Well Travelled.



Margret Carman. SA Gumnuts.