

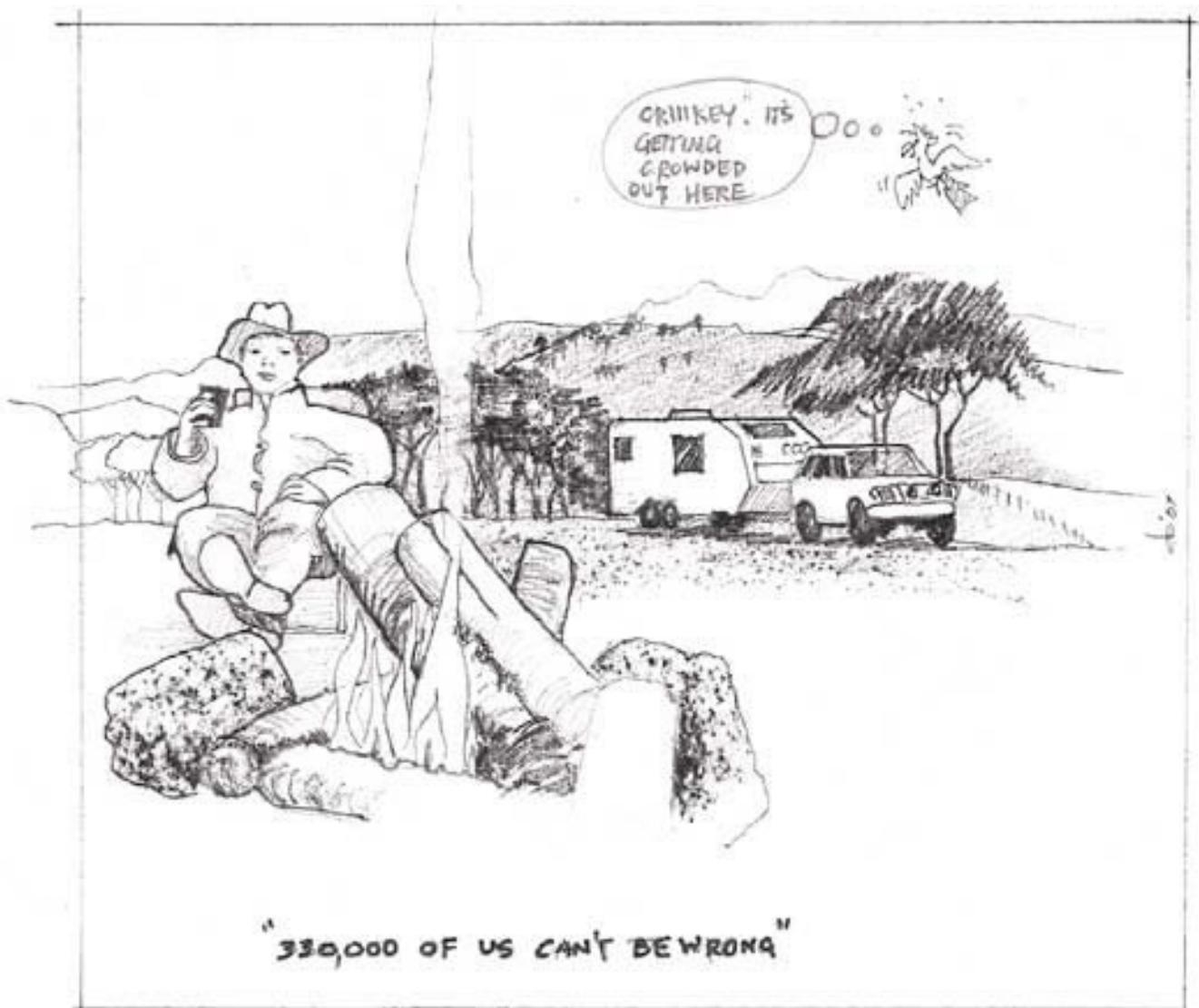


Canberra Caravan Club Inc.

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INFORMATION BOOKLET TWO



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Canberra Caravan Club Information Booklet

*1 *** A Brief History.*

On 1st May 1972, the Canberra Caravan Club was formed by a small group of people following an advertisement placed in The Canberra Times by Jack and Pam Pemberton looking for people interested in caravanning.

In the first months of the club's existence, the members set down the foundation for the club's future including deciding on a name and to incorporate.

The first club outing was a gold fossicking barbecue to Captain's Flat. This was followed in September 1972 by a rally to Cooma.

During the first two years the club raffled a caravan which helped in financing a great deal of equipment. A 21-foot by 24-foot marquee was purchased together with a large portable barbecue, many games, a projector and duplicator and a trailer to carry all the equipment.

The club was represented for many years on the Road Safety Council of the ACT and in 1977 held a Caravan Safety Day in the area where the Hellenic Club now stands.

From the beginning, club members have participated in National Rallies of Caravan Clubs and in 1983 the club hosted the 5th National Rally. This involved over 600 caravanners taking over the Canberra Showground for 10 days.

Club members, who have wished to, have travelled to South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and all the way over to Perth in Western Australia to attend National Rallies.

Today, we have around 60 family memberships who enjoy spending time together and exploring what many of the nearby areas have to offer. In addition to the rallies, the club meets each month to plan our outings and attend to the business of the club. We also hold a number of social activities. The club celebrated our 200th Rally at Bowna (just north of Albury) in March 1995.

*2 *** The Constitution.*

The club is an incorporated association with a constitution, which is provided to new members, and is available to existing members on request.

*3 *** The Committee.*

The following Office Bearers administer the club:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Who are assisted by the following committee members:

- Social Convenor/Fund Raiser
- Rally Convenor
- Editor
- Equipment (Property) Officer

The names of current office bearers and committee members who were elected at the last Annual General Meeting appear in the committee directory on Page 1 of *The Gas Bottle* each month.

Duty statements for office bearers and committee positions are available for perusal by intending candidates.

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4 * *The Club's Aims and Aspirations.***

To provide members with regular monthly (wherever possible) weekend outings (rallies) and to encourage fellowship and a social sphere that is both enjoyable and relaxing to a wide range of people from all walks of life.

To encourage and promote safety whilst towing our caravans to the various destinations. From time to time the club will endeavour to arrange guest speakers with expertise in this field to address members. Please feel free to ask other club members for their advice and call on their experience.

The Rally Convenor will have appointed or "volunteered" a rally marshal (often a couple). The rally marshal plans the outing's activities, including any sightseeing, social activities, meal arrangements, entertainment etc. If required, the rally marshal may seek assistance from the Rally Convenor and/or the Social Convenor. A volunteer is also required to write the rally report for *The Gas Bottle*. Towards the conclusion of the rally, the rally "attendance book" is distributed by the rally marshal, for comments and signature by those attending the rally.

The site bookings will have been made by the Rally Convenor and it is club policy that he/she alone will carry out any negotiations with the park managers.

The club recognises the importance of establishing and maintaining a good, cordial relationship with park owners/managers. Details of arrangements with the park, site fees, the acceptance (or not) of pets, etc. can be made available to members at the General Meeting prior to the rally.

It is vital for the Rally Convenor and the Equipment (Property) Officer to receive final attendance numbers, to enable the confirmation of the booking, and to allocate equipment, preferably no later than one week prior to the rally. Occasionally deposits are required, especially in the peak season.

The club has a copy of the video *Let's go Caravanning*, which is available to members.

To encourage members to attend the National Rally of Caravan Clubs, which is staged in a different state, on a rotating basis, every three years. The combined clubs of each state establish a committee, which then hosts the national rally. National rallies are held over a 10-day period, starting between Christmas and New Year.

5 * *Annual General Meetings.***

These are held in May of each year to review the club's activities of the previous year and to plan the forthcoming year's objectives. The club's financial position can be ascertained by the Treasurer's report and the other committee members will also deliver their reports.

Membership fees are set for the coming year and an Auditor is appointed.

The election of office bearers and committee members for the coming year will, as well, be conducted at the AGM, from the nominations received.

It has been the practice for some years for club members to have a meal together after the AGM.

6 * *Monthly General Meetings.***

These are currently held at the Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden on the second Sunday of the month, commencing at 7-30 pm

Occasionally the date will be altered to the first Sunday of the month, if the second Sunday falls on a long weekend and the Club is away on a rally; or because of special events such as Mothers' Day, or Fathers' Day.

The aim of the Monthly General Meeting is to conduct the club's business in a light-hearted fashion. The forthcoming year's proposed rallies and social events are normally available for members' comments at the first General Meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

Usually the forthcoming rally is discussed and final numbers are obtained to confirm bookings. The Monthly General Meeting is perceived by most members to be a good opportunity to socialise.

A "meeting fee", of one dollar per person, is collected from members to ensure continued access to the extremely appropriate venue which is so kindly provided by the Deakin Soccer Club.

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7 * "The Gas Bottle".**

This is the club's monthly journal and newsletter. The Editor collates all contributions received from members including the monthly rally report. The Editor's database includes such information as the membership list, phone numbers, important dates such as birthdays, anniversaries etc. *The Gas Bottle* also publicises forthcoming events and includes the minutes of the club's previous meeting. As well, it contains some advertisements from our sponsors on the inside of the front and back covers. Members' contributions are always welcome.

8 * Why join a Caravan Club?**

A caravan club provides the opportunity to do some research prior to purchasing a 'van; ie. to conduct a "feasibility study". Members are more than happy to show prospective members and others through their 'van and to point out the "pros and cons" of certain types of 'vans. Information regarding safe towing is also shared.

There are many caravans parked in backyards, carports and garages that see the open road once a year for the annual holidays. Joining a caravan club gives one the opportunity of optimising the use of one's van by travelling away with like-minded people on a regular basis to many and varied destinations.

9 * How do I decide whether I want to join?**

Prospective members must have attended a minimum of two rallies and two meetings before applying for membership. The club encourages prospective members to attend several events to see whether the club's activities meet their needs. Having decided to apply for membership, applications are then submitted to the club committee, which in turn, will offer its recommendations of the proposed membership to the monthly General Meeting.

10 * What is a Caravan Rally?**

This is where club members hitch up their 'vans and head for a predetermined destination, over a weekend or long weekend.

"Roving" rallies, of one or more week's duration, are sometimes organised. Members can either participate in the whole journey or "catch up" with the others somewhere along the line.

"Bush" rallies are held at venues where facilities like electricity and hot showers are sparse, or non-existent.

At the General Meeting in June, the Rally Convenor provides members with a proposed Rally programme for the coming 12 months. The programme is appraised and discussed and sometimes adjusted. The destinations are selected according to distance, number of days off (e.g. public holidays, etc.), accessibility to caravans, facilities, places of interest to visit, ability to erect one of the Club' marquees, site fees, etc.

Once a year, the club endeavours to arrange a Joint Rally with another caravan club. As well as providing a great social event, the exchange of ideas has proven to be invaluable.

11 * What do I need to take?**

The Equipment (Property) Officer distributes the club equipment, which needs to be taken on a rally. This depends on the number of participants. The equipment is then collected from the Equipment (Property) Officer at a designated time. Members are usually contacted by telephone and given some idea of the equipment they will be expected to take. Prospective members are often not required to carry any equipment.

Whilst the club has two trestle tables, members are advised to bring along a collapsible table, eg. a card table and a fold-up chair for each person.

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12 *** What happens on a Rally?

The club considers that it is most important not to inconvenience other motorists, especially when travelling in convoy. Please attempt to pull off the road, when this can be done safely, in an effort to allow *them* to pass *us*; this could avoid accidents when impatient motorists attempt to overtake us. Please allow sufficient space between vans to enable vehicles to overtake us safely one at a time.

The marquee is usually erected when all the appropriate equipment has arrived, or as soon as practicable thereafter. The club has a policy of "No Smoking" in the marquee; as well, dogs are not permitted in the marquee.

The members who have been allocated the urn, tea, coffee, milk etc. will be the "urn monitors" for that particular rally and any expenses incurred replenishing it will be reimbursed by the club.

Club members enjoy playing disc bowls, both competitively and just for entertainment.

"Happy hour" usually commences around 4.30pm, although this depends on what the rally marshal has planned for that day. It is advisable to bring some snacks, which can be shared in the marquee during happy hour.

After meals in the marquee there are often games played, some nights there may be an auction, with proceeds going to the club's funds. If members have any small items for which they have no use, please bring them along.

13 *** C.B.Radios.

Travelling to and from our destination, members often travel in convoy. Most members have a CB radio to aid in communication en route and on sightseeing trips. When towing caravans, we tend to utilise Channel 18, both in VHF and UHF modes. Some club members have placed a sticker on the rear of their caravan stating the channel(s) they can be contacted on. When members go on tours of the area they are visiting, without the van in tow, they usually communicate with each other on Channel 19.

14 ***What is a "Hot Pot"?

On some rallies, the rally marshal might organise a hot pot dinner to be shared in the marquee. This usually comprises a casserole or it might have a special theme such as Italian or pasta. Members are asked to prepare enough food for about four serves. The same would apply for dessert. The food is set out in banquet style on one of the trestle tables. Other meals at rallies might consist of a barbecue, other nights we may decide to have dinner out at a local pub or restaurant.

15 *** What is a Local Social Event?

To assist with the maintenance and replacement of club equipment, several fundraising activities are also undertaken throughout the year.

Each year, several local outings are organised. The club's Annual Dinner usually takes place on completion of the Annual General Meeting, in May. As well, the club has an annual Christmas function in early December. A wine bottling day has also proved very popular. Other activities include BBQ outings at an appropriate site - (eg. Pine Island), Ten Pin Bowling afternoons and progressive dinners.

16 *** Fundraising.

The objective of fundraising is to keep members' annual subscriptions at a reasonable level despite ongoing costs such as insurance, registration and maintenance of the club's trailer and other equipment. Printing costs and postage associated with the distribution of The Gas Bottle and replenishment of consumables such as milk, tea, coffee and gas are some of the other expenses.

Every attempt is made to make the fundraising as enjoyable as possible and it is often turned into a social event.

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