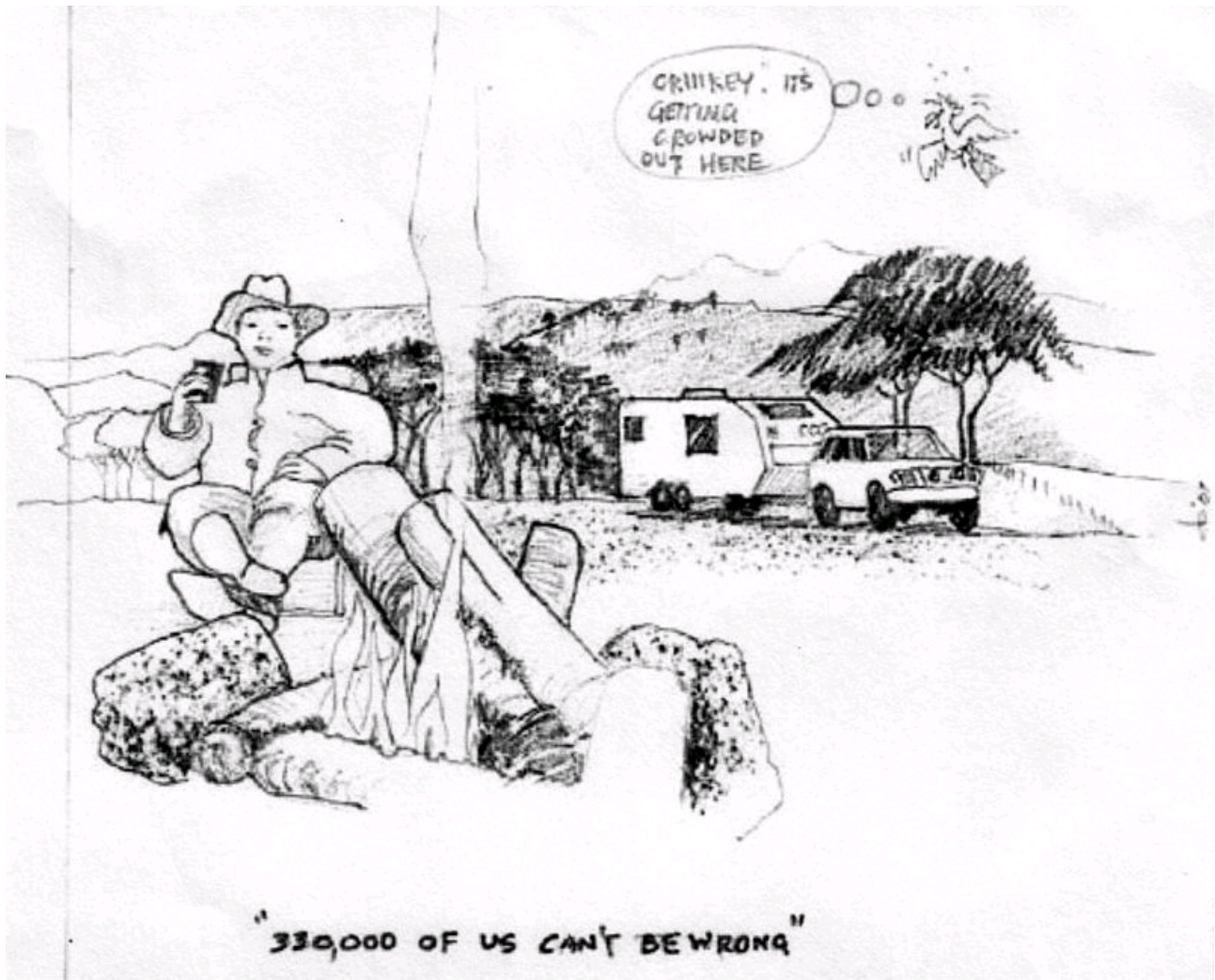


CANBERRA CARAVAN CLUB INC

INFORMATION BOOKLET



Canberra Caravan Club Inc
PO Box 579
CURTIN ACT 2605

CANBERRA CARAVAN CLUB INC.

INFORMATION BOOKLET

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1. Guidelines for Prospect Members

Before applying for membership of the club, a prospective member must meet the club's qualification criteria by:

- attending two rallies and two social events (includes monthly meetings) within four months of the commencement of the qualifying period (see below) and
- possess a towed or self-propelled vehicle containing built-in living accommodation, of a reasonable standard, adequate for the prospective member's needs.

The Committee, through the Membership Secretary, will determine when the prospective member's qualification period commences. If the above criteria cannot be met within the qualifying period, a two-month extension may be granted by the committee.

If the required attendances have not been completed within the initial or extended period the committee

- may grant one more two-month extension, depending on circumstances, or
- shall no longer consider the applicant to be a prospective member.

If the applicant is still interested in becoming a member, a new qualification period must be completed.

Prospective members will be given the club's monthly newsletter, *The Gas Bottle*, at meetings attended, during the qualification period.

2. A Brief History

The Canberra Caravan Club was formed in May 1972 by a small group of people. In the first few months the members set down the foundation for the club's future, decided on a name and to incorporate.

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

During the first two years the club raffled a caravan which helped finance a great deal of equipment, which included a 21 ft x 24 ft marquee, large barbecue, games and a trailer to transport the equipment.

Since its formation the club has been represented at all National Rallies of Caravan Clubs held in various states. In 1983 the Canberra Caravan Club hosted the 5th National Rally with over 600 caravanners making EPIC their home for 10 days.

In May 2009 the club had 80 single, couple or family memberships, representing some 148 members who enjoy spending time together and exploring what nearby areas have to offer. In addition to rallies the club meets each month to plan our outings and attend to the business of the club.

3. The Constitution

The Canberra Caravan Club is an incorporated association with a constitution. A copy is available on the club's website - www.canberracaravanclub.org.au

4. The Committee

The following office bearers administer the club:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

They are assisted by the following committee members:

Membership Secretary
Rally Convenor
Editor
Equipment Officer
Social Convenor
Web Site Convenor

The names of the current office bearers and committee members are printed in the Committee Directory in *The Gas Bottle* each month.

5. The Club's Aims

- To provide members with regular monthly (wherever possible) weekend rallies and to encourage fellowship and a social sphere which 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. From time to time the club will endeavour to arrange guest speakers with expertise in this field. Please feel free to ask other club members for their advice or call on their experience. 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 held every three years in a different state on a rotating basis. The combined clubs of a state establish a committee which then hosts the National Rally. National Rallies are held over a 10-day period.

6. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is held in May each year to review the club's activities of the previous year and to plan the coming year's calendar. The club's financial position can be ascertained by the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statement. Other office bearers and committee members will also present their reports.

The election of officer bearers and committee members is conducted, membership fees are set for the coming year and an Auditor and Public Officer are appointed.

7. Monthly General Meetings

Monthly meetings are currently held at the Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden on the second Sunday of the month, commencing at 7.30 pm. The meeting usually will be brought forward to the first Sunday when the second Sunday falls on a long weekend or because of other special events such as Mother's Day.

The aim of the monthly general meeting is to conduct the club's business. Coming rallies are discussed and bookings taken. Monthly meetings are seen by most members as a good opportunity to socialise.

The calendar of the coming year's rallies and social events is normally discussed and approved at the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

8. *The Gas Bottle*

This is the club's monthly newsletter which is sent to all members. As many members travel for several months during the winter this is one way for them to stay informed of coming events and news of other members. The Editor collates all contributions received from members, including reports of rallies, and sources other articles of interest to caravanners. Members' contributions are always welcome. The minutes of monthly meetings are attached to *The Gas Bottle*.

9. Why Join a Caravan Club?

A caravan club provides the opportunity for research prior to purchasing a caravan. Members are more than happy to show prospective members and others through their vans 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 which see the open road once a year for the annual holiday. Joining a caravan club provides the opportunity of optimising the use of a caravan by travelling with like-minded people on a regular basis to many and varied destinations.

10. How Do I Decide Whether I Want to Join?

Visitors are under no obligation to join. 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, prospective members must have attended a minimum of two rallies and two social events or meetings. Applications are considered by the committee and a recommendation put to the members at the next general meeting.

11. What is a Caravan Rally?

This is where club members hitch up their vans and head for a pre-determined destination for a weekend or longer.

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

Bush rallies are held at venues where facilities such as 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 destinations are selected according to distance, length of the weekend, e.g. public holidays, accessibility to caravans, facilities available, places of interest to visit, ability to erect one of the club's marquees, site fees, etc. The programme is discussed and then approved by the members.

12. What Happens on a Rally?

The club considers 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 others to pass. This could avoid accidents when impatient motorists attempt to overtake. Please allow sufficient space between vans to enable vehicles to safely overtake one caravan at a time.

If the club trailer is taken to a rally the marquee is usually erected as soon as practicable. The club has a policy of "No Smoking" in the marquee. Dogs are not permitted in the marquee.

Happy hour usually commences around 4.30 pm, although this depends on what the rally marshal has planned for that day. It is advisable to bring snacks which can be shared. At large rallies some people bring snacks one day and the remainder bring them the next day.

Evening meals are often eaten in the marquee. After dinner there might be evening entertainment in the marquee organised by the rally marshal.

At least once a year an auction is held during a rally. Members donate quality items which they no longer use. Warning – be very careful of how you move your arms or hands, or any other part of your body for that matter or you will find you're the new 'proud owner' of someone else's discarded item!!

13. Dogs at Rallies

Dogs are permitted on rallies only if agreed to by park management. This will be noted on the rally booking sheet. Please also note that:

- dogs must be kept on leads at all times
- dogs are not permitted in the marquee or at happy hour
- owners must clean up after their dogs.

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 'finger food'. Members are asked to prepare enough food for about 4 serves.

The same would apply for dessert. The food is set out on tables, buffet style, and everyone helps themselves.

Sometimes a barbecue might be organised or it may be decided to have dinner at a local club or restaurant.

15. CB Radios

Travelling to and from rallies members often travel in convoy. Most members have a UHF radio with which they can communicate en route and on sightseeing trips. We tend to use Channel 18. Some members have a sticker on the rear of their caravans stating the channel(s) they can be contacted on. When members go on tours of the area they are visiting, without the caravans in tow, they usually communicate with each other on Channel 19.

16. Guidelines for Rally Marshals

These are intended to be guidelines only and rally marshals should by no means feel they must do everything listed.

The rally marshal is responsible for:

- allocation of sites (if not done by park manager)
- having first aid kit available
- use of the whiteboard for the weekend's programme
- if not already done, appointing a reporter for *The Gas Bottle*
- ensuring all attending the rally sign the *Rally Book*

Optional:

- organise activities on site, e.g. disc bowls, quiz, decorated hat parade, etc.
- organise tours or activities away from the site
- organise a communal meal (hot pot) on site or at a club, pub or restaurant.

17. Fundraising

The club has an annual auction, usually held At the Australia Day rally. This is our major fundraiser as well as a lot of fun – don't scratch your nose or rub your ear or you could be the proud owner of goodness knows what!! The money raised helps pay our indemnity insurance, registration of the equipment trailer and maintains the annual fee at a reasonable rate.



The Secretary
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secretary@canberracaravanclub.org.au

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