



NEWSLETTER No. 208 July 2024

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NEXT MEETING - Sunday, August 18th , 2024

Meeting Held 21st July 2024

This was a General Meeting

Members: 55 Attended 5 Apologies and 3 Visitors

Raffle Winners

1st prize \$50.00 Des Cooper

2nd prize \$30.00 Ron Belshaw

3rd prize \$20.00 Bev Shoobert

Winners of Gift Cards donated by **Creightons**

1 x \$30.00 Coles card Fay Evenden

1 x \$20.00 Coles card Peter Davidson

Winners of \$10.00 Gift Cards supplied by **The Doylo**

Bill O'brien and Al Dew

Birthdays for August



Lee Sing William	3-Aug	Moore Joy	5-Aug
Barnes Peter	16-Aug	Kane Coral	10-Aug
McConville Bill	21-Aug	Laney Lorraine	12-Aug
Wells John	25-Aug	Roth-Magar Jenifer	22-Aug
Maranik Aado	28-Aug		
O'Brien Bill	31-Aug		



Trips

Are you interested in a trip in 2025 –



Trip 1 - March /April to Perth and return via the coast road Margaret River Albany - Esperance then back to Mt Gambier and Geelong Vic. Trip 2 - August/September to the Ord River dam via Katheryn approximate 6 weeks both trips

Check out the trip sheets next meeting.

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## **Two caravans destroyed by fire at Bundaberg dealership after lithium-ion battery catches fire near mattress**



Queensland authorities say a "failed" lithium-ion battery is the cause of a blaze that destroyed two caravans this week. The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) responded to Monday's blaze within minutes, but not before it spread to a neighbouring van as workers raced to move other caravans out of the way. The fire, at a Bundaberg dealership about 400 kilometres north of Brisbane, was extinguished without damage to other property. A QFD spokesperson said investigations revealed a "failed lithium-ion battery next to a mattress" was the cause of the fire. It is unknown if the caravans were new or secondhand. The dealership declined to comment. The Caravan Industry Association of Australia (CIAA) said while batteries were often the electrical backbone of a van, they had only seen a "minor number" of battery incidents in caravans over the past few years. "There are issues from a [battery] industry perspective, this isn't necessarily specific or unique to caravanning," CIAA's communications manager Luke Chippendale said. An ABC report in March found that more than 1,000 fires had been caused by lithium-ion batteries in the past year, according to data from state and territory fire authorities. Safety reminder Meanwhile, authorities have urged caravan owners to stay informed about the industry's regulatory changes and safety precautions. Mr Chippendale said there were significant changes to the Australian Standard regarding the electrical supply in new caravans which took effect in November last year. "The new regulations stipulate that a lithium battery cannot be installed in habitable living areas, such as inside of the vans sleeping area, or the trailer itself," Mr Chippendale said. "Most of the installations now are occurring in a sealed-off area away from that, and it's vented to the exterior environment." From July 1, all caravans or motorhomes in Queensland will also be required to have photoelectric smoke alarms installed on the ceiling at the start, or transfer of the registration period. QFD's Mark Halverson said when caravanning regulations were followed, the risk of a fire was "very low". "When people go outside of those recommendations and do things that we would deem as quite silly, then the risk of fire increases quite dramatically," Supt Halverson said. Supt Halverson said it was important to always use a correct and undamaged charger and ideally charge a device outdoors. "Just because a charger fits into the charging port, doesn't mean it's the correct charger," he said. "Using an incorrect charger is very dangerous, and it's likely to result in a fire. "It should also be noted that charging the device should always be done in an outdoor area, if that's at all possible." He said the power supply to the charger should be disconnected, and the device reassessed, if there were any unusual signs including smells, noises or heat

**[Link below for correct charging of lithium replacement batteries.](https://www.mortonsonthemove.com/how-to-switch-to-lithium-rv-batteries/)**

**<https://www.mortonsonthemove.com/how-to-switch-to-lithium-rv-batteries/>**

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A new way for Caravan parks

A travelling couple highlighted the 'fantastic' feature after recently stopping off at the Coonalpyn Caravan Park, southeast of Adelaide. Check out the following link for more information.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/tourists-stunned-by-very-clever-detail-at-aussie-caravan-park-041137985.html>

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### **Thanks to our Sponsors**

Jimmy and I would like to give our sincere thanks to "All about Caravans". We won the \$500 service/repairs and were grateful for the gift and the great service provided by them when we dropped our van in to use this prize. Gaianne

## Navigating a Breakdown in your RV: (Could apply to caravans as well)

Breaking down in an RV can be a challenging experience, but with a calm and methodical approach, you can manage the situation effectively. Whether you're on a cross-country road trip or exploring the great outdoors, being prepared, and knowing the right steps to take can make all the difference.

### **Prioritise Safety:**

- As soon as you notice an issue, safely manoeuvre your RV to the side of the road.
- Activate hazard lights to alert other drivers to your presence.
- Enhance visibility with warning triangles, especially if you're on a busy road and wear a high visibility vest.

### **Assess the Situation:**

- Identify the problem. Is it a flat tyre, engine trouble, or another issue?
- If it's within your capabilities, assess the problem; otherwise, focus on calling for assistance.

### **Call for Help:**

- Reach out to your roadside assistance provider. If you don't have a plan, contact a local towing service or mechanic.
- Provide precise information about your location and the nature of the issue.

### **Stay In or Near Your RV:**

- While awaiting assistance, if you remain inside the RV, you and your passengers need to wear seatbelts.
- If you have to get out of your vehicle:
  - Always check for traffic
  - Leave your vehicle from the passenger side (away from traffic)
  - Avoid crossing the road
  - Stand clear of the road and move behind a safety barrier if it is safe to do so
  - Wear a high visibility vest
  - Use safety equipment like reflective triangles or cones if it's safe to set them up.

### **Stay Informed:**

- Keep your mobile phone charged and maintain communication with the service provider.
- Be ready to offer additional details about your RV for a more efficient response.

### **Have Essential Supplies:**

- Ensure you have water, snacks, and necessary medications for the wait – especially when travelling in rural or remote areas.
- If the weather is cold, have warm clothing or blankets on hand.

### **Document the Situation:**

- Capture images of the RV, surroundings, and any damage for insurance purposes.
- Keep a record of conversations with roadside assistance or towing services.

### **Consider Your Travel Plans:**

- If the breakdown alters your schedule significantly, be prepared to adjust plans.
- Communicate with reservations or anyone expecting your arrival.

Experiencing a breakdown in your RV can be a roadblock, but with a systematic approach, you can navigate through the challenges. Prioritise safety, stay informed, and be prepared with essential supplies to make the waiting period more manageable. Remember, flexibility in your travel plans and effective communication can turn a potentially stressful situation into a manageable one.



## North Haven



Mike, Leonie, Sandra, William, Joan, Rod and I set off after the June meeting heading to Bulahdelah to spend the night at the golf club. We arrived and parked and decided to head into the club for a drink and dinner at the Chinese Restaurant which we all enjoyed. We headed back to our vans so that we could have a good sleep before heading off the next morning but unfortunately that didn't happen. It was freezing cold, wet and I think we counted about 2000 trucks going up and down the highway. This is not a place that we will go back to.

We set off in the morning and decided to stop and have breakfast at The Artisan Farmer, just north of Nabadac. What a great place to stop as there was plenty of room to park the

vans.

We arrived at North Haven and set up and the rest of the group arrived. We had great happy hour's and we went to Bonny Hills Hotel for lunch meeting up with Bluey Ducker. We went to Club North Haven for dinner on Thursday and night and one of our members was lucky enough to win a raffle prize (Leonie Collins). One afternoon we played the game that Janis and purchased for Armidale which is called Corn Toss with bean bags but after an hour it got cold and we decided to have happy hour instead.



Unfortunately, Rod & I had to come home on Friday but the rest of the group went and had fish and chips and I believe they went back to the club for lunch on Sunday where a couple more of our members won raffle prizes (Pat Rohwer & Aado Marinik) and some even won on the pokies.

Rod & I would like to thank everyone who attended as we had a great week doing very little and we hope to do it again next year.  
Fay and Rod

The North Haven trip organised by Ron/Fay Thomas was scheduled 18 - 24th June. About four of five vans left from the Doylo General Meeting on the 16th and went to Bulahdelah overnight and then arrived North Haven on the Monday.

North Haven park is in a beautiful condition, sites are all perfect size mostly double slab, toilets and showers were immaculate and very, very clean and the showers had an abundance of hot water. The park had less than 50% occupancy but the meeting room where we gathered only ever had two lots of people. There was our club about 20 members at a time and the Central Coast Caravan club was there with 14 members.

On Wednesday a big gang went out for lunch at the Bonny Hills hotel where we caught up with Bluey Ducker. There was lots of laughter a few drinks and it was a really pleasant afternoon. Bluey looked really good and he has lost weight

On the Thursday afternoon we all attended the local club arriving early so we could buy raffle tickets this was our big night out we went out for dinner. Sadly, only Leonie Collin's won a meat tray.

We had some fun games which Rod and Fay organised. They organised us into teams and we had a few hours of fun each day.

A few of us went on drives. I went to the top of Northhaven Lookout and took photos of North haven township and on the other side of the hill I took photos of Middle Brother and South Brother.

it is interesting when you walk down the break wall out to the ocean

inlet there are about six Grey Nurse sharks that swim up break wall to the first fishing table. I

talked to some of the local fishermen, and they said if you throw a fish carcass into the channel the



sharks don't even go near them. I observed a number of fishermen or fisherpersons catching fish mostly brim around about 30 to 35 cm in the channel.



Guess that's all folks 🙄 🍷

Des

Graham and I with little Grizzly enjoyed a walk along Breakwater at Camden Head near Laurieton. The sun shined with calm sea. Beautiful day on North Haven trip. Diane



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| <b>Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners<br/>TRIP SHEETS 2024</b> |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                         |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DATES</b>                                           | <b>DESTINATION</b>            | <b>MEMBERS ATTENDING</b>                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>CONTACT</b>                                                          | <b>PARK</b>                                         |
| <b>5 – 11 Aug</b>                                      | <b>Del Rio Riverside Park</b> | <b>Barnes/Gosper D/G, Collins M/L, Cornwell J, Cooper D, Curtis D/M, Dick/Moore M/T, Howard B/A, Lee-Sing S/W, Maranik D/A, Rees M/A, Ryan J/R, Sherwood C/D, Thomas F/R, Treacy/Wenning J/R 14</b>   | <b>Fay &amp; Rod Thomas<br/>0408 271 236</b>                            | <b>Del Rio Riverside Park 4566 4330</b>             |
| <b>31 Oct –<br/>7 Nov</b>                              | <b>Big 4 Tamworth</b>         | <b>Barnes/Gosper D/G, Collins M/L, Cornwell J, Howard B/A, Insull/Doyle B/J, Lee-Sing W/S, Rees M/D, Rohwer P/P, Shoobert B, Smyth H/J, Thomas R/F, Treacy/Wenning J/R<br/>Visitors – Rush W/L 14</b> | <b>Club Organised</b>                                                   | <b>Big 4 Tamworth<br/>6766 3120</b>                 |
| <b>11 – 25<br/>Nov</b>                                 | <b>Narrabeen Leisure Trip</b> | <b>Bickley/Baird C/C, Bryce/Tanner J/H, Davidson/Whitehead P/Y, Fraser A/T, Leotta A/L, Maranik D/A, Rohwer P/P, Wells J/J 8</b>                                                                      | <b>John Bryce 0424 963<br/>954 or<br/>Helen Tanner 0468<br/>637 711</b> | <b>PLEASE CONTACT<br/>JOHN OR HELEN TO<br/>BOOK</b> |