



DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Reports

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Welcome to the final Edition of 2019!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT LEN

🎄 2019 is almost gone and **Christmas** is here once again. I hope you enjoyed the 12 rallies (including the Roving Rally) that the committee planned. They have taken us to a variety of locations and judging by the feedback, members have enjoyed the opportunity to visit parts of the state they may not have seen otherwise and to catch up with friends. That was why the club was formed 15 years ago!

🎄 This year we have welcomed a number of new members, with 3 new couples joining the same time at the **Collie** rally! Sadly, we have also seen a few of our members leave the club due to health issues. We wish them all the best.

🎄 The **Rally Program** for 2020 was updated in November and you should have received a copy in an email. Please contact me if you didn't receive it or need a hard copy. We have tried to make the program interesting and have included a few places we haven't visited for a while (or not at all!) We will also venture a little further from Perth than we have in recent years, for example **Hopetoun**. It is always good to try different ideas. If the longer rallies are successful, we will include this in our planning for 2021. If not, we will learn from the experience and do something different. Remember to give us your feedback.

🎄 The **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) will be held later than usual next year, around May to early June. Members will recall that we adopted the Model Rules published by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety (previously the Department of Commerce). These rules replaced our old constitution and will determine how our AGM will be run. The first Newsletter of 2020 will be devoted to providing more information on the process. However, I will flag some of the key changes here for members to consider.

- *All committee members are now elected annually at the AGM.*
- *There is no limit to the number of times a committee member can be elected.*
- *Nominations for positions must be received by the **President** (in the absence of a club secretary) at least 28 days before the AGM and must include a statement of support from another member (ie a nomination).*

Details on the date and location of the AGM will be sent out with the Newsletter. I will, however, take this opportunity to urge members to think about nominating for a role on the Committee. We are down to a core group of 4 at present and while we have coped well, the situation is neither sustainable nor in the best interests of the club. A big "thank you" to the Committee and all those who have organised activities at our rallies. Without their commitment it would not be possible to run a club.

**On behalf of your committee I wish members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Enjoy the festive season, stay safe and we will see you at our rallies in 2020**





BRIDGETOWN – 11th to 13th OCTOBER

Attendees: Clive & Margaret; Maurice & Caroline; John & Trudy; Don & Helen; Michael & Christine; Graham M; Alan & Pauline; John & Robyn; Mike & Molly; Stan & Jenny; Carl & Nardi + Guests: Rolf & Julie; (12 vans)

Friday 11th: Beautiful warm start as the final vans arrived by midday (some had already arrived on the Thursday).

With most of the allocated ‘spacious’ sites overlooking the river, it was perfect for sitting out with a cuppa and catching up with friends.



Plenty of room for all!



View of river from our vans

Michael opened the rally, with a special welcome to Mike & Molly, who had travelled up from their new abode in Albany. A warm welcome was also extended to Carl & Nardi’s guests, Rolf and Julie. Maurice & Caroline then recapped the plans for the weekend.

5pm Happy Hour was held in the snug Campers Kitchen, which we discovered had a wood stove in the corner, and with a chilly wind getting up, it was time to light the stove....good thinking Maurice!



Saturday 12th: 9.30am and having found the **Flying Duck Café** could not accommodate us all, Maurice and Caroline lead us down Hampton Street to the **Emporium Bistro** they had explored earlier. There was a remarkable difference in size, and with the splendid olde traditional décor and relaxed ambiance, everyone soon settled in to enjoy our morning tea break before exploring the Town. **Wag Walters Emporium** and **Santa’s Secret Toy Shop** were definitely worth visiting!

Back at the Caravan Park and early lunches were in order for those who hadn’t found the Bridgetown Bakery & Pie Shop before we set off in convoy at 12.15pm for the **Greenbushes Mine Lookout Tour**. This was a **Free 2 hour Tour** that Stan & Jenny (*your Editor*) had originally arranged for themselves; word spread, calls were made and 23 members set off!

It was a 14min drive from the Caravan Park with an estimated time of arrival of 12.30pm. No such luck, 12:55pm and we were still looking for the Reception Centre. It turned out that the directions given had been misinterpreted over the phone. Wearing our requisite closed in shoes, full length trouser and long sleeve tops, we finally checked in and got our wrist bands for the coach we were to take later.

Our tour started off in the nearby hall with an excellent slideshow and talk from the **Talison Lithium Mine Manager**. We learnt that the site comprises a number of open cut mines for **spodumene** (lithium), with the **Greenbushes pegmatite** being the largest and highest grade hard rock lithium minerals resource in the World.

Soon it was time to collect our helmets, safety glasses and high-viz jacket before boarding our coach. We did, however, mislay one member who managed to find their way onto another coach!



An Impressive Blast Demonstration ended our field tour before heading back for a free afternoon tea of sandwiches, hamburgers, sausages, cakes, tea and coffee laid on by **Talison**. All agreed it was a lot more interesting than first imagined and was the highlight of the weekend.

5.00 pm and Happy Hour was back in the campers' kitchen around the wood stove, before starting up the BBQ for our shared evening meal. Some of the group had gone out to dinner to celebrate John D and Julie's birthday that day, so birthday cake was held back for Sunday evening.

Sunday 13th: A few members went into town early before everyone met up at 10.45am at the Caravan Park to set off for lunch at **The Cidery** (well known for its award winning Ciders, Ales and Stouts, plus their non-alcoholic ciders). Maurice & Caroline had ordered our food choices in advance, allowing us more time for chatting whilst waiting for our meals.



The Birthday Cakes came out following Sunday's happy Hour. As well as John and Julie celebrating their birthdays over the weekend, Alan and Pauline would be celebrating theirs in the coming week.

Monday 14th: Time to go home! Our 10am departure time was flexible (caravan park was empty) as we hung around to share a cuppa before saying goodbye until the next rally. Thankyou to **Maurice and Caroline** for organising a great weekend.



Report and Photos – Jenny Wysocki



BODDINGTON – 8th / 9th NOVEMBER

Attendees: Maurice & Caroline; Jeff & Wendy; Sandy & Graham; Don & Helen; Alex & Brenda; Phil & Chris; Graham M; Alan & Pauline; John & Robyn; (9 vans / 17 members))

Friday 8th: As we drove into the caravan park, mid-afternoon, passing by Alan & Pauline's van we were confronted with an unusual sight! Whilst setting-up their van, Alan had encountered some difficulty with his plumbing and so of course all the available 'X-spurts' (WCJC club male members) rushed over to help. With some sexy legs protruding out from under the van and much consultation, the problem was soon rectified. Water to Alan's van was again freely flowing and everyone was relaxing in their chairs under the trees, enjoying a gentle breeze and a quiet catch-up.





5:00pm Happy Hour was also held in our circle under the trees as it was still very hot in the Campers' Kitchen. Graham H (VP) officially opened the rally, before Sandy presented a birthday cake adorned with one candle to Graham M. who was celebrating his birthday that day. The candle extinguished itself **and** re-lit itself several times whilst Graham attempted to blow out the candle with one breath. (Was it the gentle breeze blowing through the park that blew the candle out, **or** was it a trick candle? No-one knows! Sandy is not telling!)

Dinner was eaten together in the Campers' Kitchen now that the sun had set and it was a little cooler in there. After-dinner chatter followed until Graham M. surprised us all....he brought a flagon of sherry and some tasting glasses into our midst before telling us the story of the sherry....he had recently been to visit a farm that he had owned many years ago.

After asking permission of the current owners to search for the flagon which he had buried there over 33years ago (to preserve it and keep it safe!) Following more than 4 hours of digging he had retrieved the flagon, in good condition and with most of the label intact. Graham was looking very pleased with himself, and with good reason, for when we tasted it, we all agreed that it was very smooth and delicious ...a delightful drop! What an amazing story! What a great way to celebrate a birthday! After several tastings for each of us, and a little more chatter, we turned out the lights and headed for bed.



Saturday 9th: By 8:30am the birds were chirping, there was a gentle breeze creating ripples on the surface of the Hotham River as it flowed by and some of our members were starting to stir. Some walked down to look at the LARGE fish sculpture on the riverbank and the nearby fish ladder near the boardwalk.



By 9:15am members made their way downtown to **the Happy Soul Café**; our group almost filled the inside. We treated ourselves to hot drinks and wonderful, irresistible food (jelly cakes to chocolate logs and croissants) all made 'in house' with excellent service from very friendly staff.



Upon leaving the café we wandered along the streets admiring a sculpture of a soldier on his horse, created by **Len Zuks**, outside the Shire Office, followed by some fun, creative sculptures which were made using a variety of materials, and had been entered in a recent local competition. They were now arranged in a vacant block of land for all to see and walk amongst.



After lunch we took a short stroll up to the **Art & Craft Centre**. The friendly and informative volunteers welcomed us in and discussed their work-in-progress. They gave us a quick peep at some of the mosaic tile pieces featuring local flora and fauna, which will soon be featured on a nearby building as part of a beautification project for the area. A browse through the adjoining gift shop revealed some further talents of the local residents. Then it was back to the vans for a rest before 'a nice afternoon in good company'.





5:00pm Happy Hour was preceded by a photo shoot under the trees where we had been chatting during the afternoon. Then we moved into the Campers' Kitchen for our drinks followed by the cooking of our BBQ dinners.

Wendy, with a little help from Jeff, Alex, and Brenda, opened up the café blinds around the Campers' Kitchen as it had become very smoky and noisy in there. This lively four managed to climb, stretch and use some fancy gymnastic moves to achieve the desired result! After dinner and some more chatting, members disappeared to their vans to turn on their air conditioning to get relief from the continuing heat.

Sunday 10th: Once again it was time to pack up and head for home. This had been a thoroughly relaxing weekend away. Everyone had appreciated the easy pace of it and the chance to have a good catch-up with members they had not seen for some time. Thankyou Chris and Phil for organizing such a wonderful weekend!



Report and Photos – Sandy Harley

