



SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER: KALGARIN RALLY & SILO TRAIL ROVING RALLY

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TRESSIES CARAVAN PARK, HYDEN - 2nd to 4th August

*Attendees: Len & Marilyn, Graham & Sandy, Phil & Chris, John & Robyn,
*Ross & Sue - Total of 5 vans/10 members (*new members)*

Friday 2nd: It was a sunny day with light winds as the last three vans arrived at **Tressies Caravan Park** in the early afternoon to join the other two. After lunch, time was spent chatting to each other and getting to know our new members. Sandy took some time out to 'interview' Sue and Ross for our Newsletter:

Q1: Have you been caravanning before?

A: *We have not been in a caravan club before. We bought this van about 12 months ago and love it...Have just done a trip up north to Broome etc. with it and thought that if we joined a club we might get to use the van more.*

Q3: Can you tell us a little about yourselves please?

SUE: *Was in education – teaching mainly upper primary/year 6 level, now retired but still doing some occasional work including the marking of NAPLAN tests.....looks after the grandchildren...does scrapbooking...enjoys reading & photography*

ROSS: *was a builder, but now self-employed, doing building inspections for new/building/purchase/ rental....loves his footy (is a Big Eagles fan) and enjoys gardening*

Thank you Sue and Ross and welcome to the WCJC



5:00pm Happy Hour: We gathered in the Campers Kitchen where Len officially opened the rally, gave a warm welcome to Ross & Sue on their first rally with us, and noted that the group was a small one. This was mainly due to members being ill or undergoing surgery. They were all wished a speedy recovery.

6:00pm: We headed out for dinner to the **Kalgarin Country Club**. It was a busy night at the club! Grilled Barra and salad was a popular choice for our group with all refraining from desserts! Then it was back to **Tressies** for a quiet drink/coffee and a chat near the fire before bed.

Saturday 3rd: We awoke to a stunning sunrise followed by a misty, cool morning. With our picnic lunches stowed in vehicles, we set off for a day of fun-in-the-sun, in and around Hyden. First stop was the **Hyden Bush Village Bakehouse** for morning tea. Sitting inside from the wind, members tucked into sausage rolls, apple pies (the best Chris has EVER tasted!) and matchsticks with their hot drinks. Admiring the water-colours of the area adorning the café walls, some of us whipped out our phones to take a few snaps, before making a quick visit to the shopping centre next door. Then it was back to the cars and we were on our way just before 11:00am.

We drove to the **Wave Rock** area and had a quick look in the shops, where Pam offered us the use of the verandah for our picnic lunch. Soon we were back into cars driving out past **Lake Magic** and the airport to the **Salt Baths** in front of the **Wave Rock Resort**. Unfortunately, the baths are not ready to use, and no-one had bathers with them.... so we did not test the theory that you cannot sink here due to too much salt in the water!



On the return journey we stopped for a quick look at Lake Magic, where Len and Graham H had to taste the salt (and for those of you who have been there before, yes, the little red rowboat is still there!). We also admired the fence which has cut-outs of emus along it.



Once back at the shops, we settled on the verandah for our picnic lunch with a coffee from the café before heading out to **Hippo's Yawn**, but found that parking fees now apply so we did not linger there. Instead, we drove back into Hyden and took some photos of the **Streetscape Art** before going back to the caravan park. As an extra, we had taken the long-way-home in an effort to find Graham's Rock - yes, there is such a thing! We had a quick glimpse of it through some bushes as we drove along but alas, it is not accessible to the public.



Group being "Little Kids" on Train in Wildlife Park, Wave Rock. Note: Sandy's dad made this train!

Streetscape Art





5:00pm Happy Hour: We were joined at the Campers kitchen fire pit by a young family with 4 children under 8 years (three were red-heads!). 'Mum' was keen to take our group photo for us, and have a chat to us all before taking her family back for dinner

Sunday 4th: Early-morning-risers were once again treated to sights of a thick mist hanging over the paddocks as the sun began to rise. By 9:50am Sue and Ross were heading home and we were walking over to **Karlgarin** via the road rather than the bush, so as to avoid transferring weeds over to the caravan park. All stopped at **Pamela Jay's Xpressions** for coffee & cake plus a browse in the gift shop. Chris and Robyn also gained some cuttings from Pamela's succulent garden.



After a short wander through nearby streets, viewing the sports club mural on the wall, and the Floral Mosaic in the main street, we returned to the caravan park. After lunch, we left Chris and Phil having 'time out' in the park while two cars headed out in search of **McCann's Rock**.



This was a popular meeting place in the early days of settlement here. At approx. 8kms down the road we turned left onto a dusty road and continued on until we found a Pioneer Pathway, picnic & BBQ area, meeting hall and large rocky outcrop with a dam and low walls. We climbed the rock to the communications tower and admired the views of the countryside. All were impressed! A local farmer drove in, with his large, friendly dog named Hudson to chat with us about the area and the role of the dam...a very enlightening talk.

5:00pm Happy Hour: Len officially closed the rally, followed by drinks and chatter about what we had seen and done in the last three days plus a quick briefing re the upcoming 'Public Silo Trail Roving Rally'

PUBLIC SILO TRAIL – ROVING RALLY AUGUST 2019



Organisers: Graham & Sandy Harley

Participants: Len & Marilyn, Graham & Sandy, Phil & Chris

Monday 5th (Day 1): The three vans left Tressies Caravan Park, **Karlgarin**, at 10:10am in a light shower of rain, with our first stop being in the 'Wave Zone' (Shire of **Lake Grace**) at a 'Magic Window' on the edge of a salt lake, approx. 10kms from Lake Grace.

The **Magic Window** is there to encourage people to admire and appreciate the view and also to preserve and protect these areas. No littering! This is where we took our first photo of the rally, with the sun shining brightly again for the 'Magic Moment'.



We moved on to **Lake Grace** where Phil and Len topped up their fuel, then into **Arjo's Coffee Shop** for a leisurely coffee break before adjourning to the Big Shed in the main street for our picnic lunch. By 1:00pm we were on our way again, heading towards **Newdegate**. On arriving we stopped at the silos to admire the clever artwork by **Brenton See** and take some photos of the four silos featuring the Western Bearded Lizard, a Mallee Fowl, a Thigh Spotted Tree Frog and a Red Tailed Phascogale!



By 2:20pm we were moving on again heading towards **Lake King**. As we passed through the salt lakes on approach to **Lake King** we could see a very slight tinge of pink to the water. Coming into **Lake King**, the **Bush Mechanics Tractor Museum** beckoned us, so we spent some time looking at the different ways that the farmers in the 70's and 80's had adapted the standard tractors to suit the local needs and conditions, using their own ingenuity and skills to join tractors together, add a truck cab onto a tractor etc. etc.

We settled into the caravan park around 3:30pm. Later, **Happy Hour** was in the small Campers Kitchen (just enough room for the 6 of us) where we reviewed the events and sights of the day as well as the answers to the Fun Travel Quiz, which Chris and Marilyn had given earlier in the day. 6pm and dinner was had at the **Tavern**. The soft lighting, warm interior and great food made a very pleasant finish to our first day of the rally.

Tuesday 6th (Day 2): Drizzle did not dampen our spirits as we left **Lake King** just after 9:00am driving up and down many hills and seeing lots of beautiful emerald green pastures as we made our way towards **Ravensthorpe**. Luckily, there were parking spaces available for us all on the hill outside the **Bread & Butter Bar Café**. After a quick visit into the Farmers Union supermarket over the road for some basic supplies, we crossed back to the café for a leisurely cuppa and a sausage roll for one (there was only one! home-made! Len couldn't resist!). Returning to the cars, we drove down to **Hopetoun**, again enjoying the changing scenery along the way. When we arrived at the **Hopetoun Caravan Park** we were amazed at the HUGE collection of succulents growing just outside the reception area in pots, cages and the ground. We chose sites amongst the trees with lots of shade and the sound of waves crashing nearby.



Chris' micro photography

Once we had set up our vans, we went for an afternoon drive to **East Mt. Barren**. We were all very impressed with what we saw! Work is continuing in this area to make it user-friendly and safe with good roads and signage. The views from up there towards **Hopetoun** and to **West Mt Barren** are stunning.



Qualup Bells Mt Barren

There are masses of native flora, including **Qualup Bells** and **Royal Hakea** alongside the roads with walking tracks into the bush. Len and Graham read the signs re the Walk Trail up East Mt. Barren, then cleaned their shoes as per instructions and took a short walk along the trail. Upon their return to the cars they both vowed they would be back soon to conquer the mountain! Back down the hill and into town we went for a drive around the streets of **Hopetoun**...it is bigger than we first thought!

5:00pm Happy Hour was in the Campers Kitchen. (Thanks to Phil and Chris for the use of their heater). We were now all in jackets and beanies as we chatted for a while about our adventures, before making way for the other campers - the Melbourne mob who wanted to cook their dinner in there! It was very cold and starting to rain....time to go back to our vans for dinner and an early night.

Wednesday 7th (Day 3): Following hot showers and breakfast we packed up and left the **Hopetoun Caravan Park** at around 9:30am. Stopping at the **CRC** on the way out of town, we gathered a selection of informative booklets re the town and surround to help with our future planning, plus chatted to a staff-member who gave us tips on visiting part of the **Farm Gate Art Trail**, which is a selection of crafts made using scrap steel waste from farms. Then we were on our way again!

Heading towards **Ravensthorpe** once more, with only 15kms to go, we noticed a VERY LARGE blue-and-white tea set on the roadside at a street corner. This was part of the **Farm Gate Art Trail**. Parking up, we wandered over to have a closer look and a peek at our first roadside **Donkey Orchids** for the season. Several stops followed after this, as we were in and out of the cars looking at an array of other art projects, some funny, some clever and some quirky.



A little further along our convoy pulled off the road into a free-camp area for a quick look. We had considered this area for a one-night stop but changed our plans when the weather threatened. All agreed that this area would be great in *fine* weather.

After a short time back on the bitumen, we were back in **Ravensthorpe**, stopping once again at **the Bread and Butter Café**. Feeling refreshed, we headed out of town to the silos. These silos were painted by a world-renown artist **Amok Island**, in a very different style to those that we had seen earlier. They feature the flowering cycle of a **banksia** which is native to the region and are painted on both front and back of the silos.



Having quickly taken our group photo with the flag, we moved on towards **Jerramungup** stopping in a truck bay 60kms out, for a lunch stop in vans as the day was still cold and windy.

We arrived at the caravan park mid- afternoon, with payment made via the envelope-in-the-box system. The large drive-through sites made it easy to set up the vans, and we were soon walking around the town to familiarize ourselves with the town layout. Happy Hour was in a large Campers Kitchen followed by dinner in vans as it was very cold!

Thursday 8th (Day 4): 9:00am and we set off from **Jerramungup** in search of another set of silos. Again it was a cold and windy day and so morning tea was had in Chris and Phil's van parked on the roadside along Pingrup Road. By 10:45am we were on our way again and were soon at **Pingrup**, standing in front of the silos there.

This set of three images was painted by artist **Evoca 1** and is a 'tip of the hat' to WA's tenacious, resourceful farming communities'. Overall consensus from our group was that this artwork was truly showing the character of the local community in **Pingrup** AND was our favourite example of Silo Art we had seen.



After our lunch at the new picnic shelter in front of the caravan park (a picnic rug from the Harley's car spread on the cold metal bench was much appreciated!) we left town at 12:30pm, on our way to **Katanning**.



Cheers all!

Once we were settled into the **Katanning Kui Park** we made our way downtown for a coffee at the **Dome** with a quick shop for groceries in Woolies, plus fuel top-up before returning to the caravan park. Happy Hour was held in the Campers Kitchen with one last group photo.

Everyone agreed that it had been very enjoyable and we had seen some wonderful sights....and yes, we would do it all again!

Friday 9th (Day 5): After breakfast we all hooked up, said our farewells and went our separate ways.

Thank you to Sandy and Graham Harley for their Report and Photographs