



APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Editor
Jenny Wysocki

sandjwysocli@bigpond.com

Reports

Sandy Harley

sandpen@iinet.net.au

An Update from Len

I trust everyone is keeping well and not finding the social isolation too onerous.

I don't know about you, but I miss packing the van and going away each month. There is something wonderfully relaxing and enjoyable about caravanning. Catching up with other members is a highlight of our rallies and I miss that too.

Hang in there. We will be back on the road again. We don't know when that will be, but it **will** happen.

In the meantime, I want to remind members of a few changes we have had to make as a result of the corona virus.

All rallies have been suspended until we are allowed to travel outside our region. While we do not know when this will be, things are looking better than they did a month ago. Once we have a date, the Committee will review the rally program and decide if any changes need to be made. We will keep you posted.

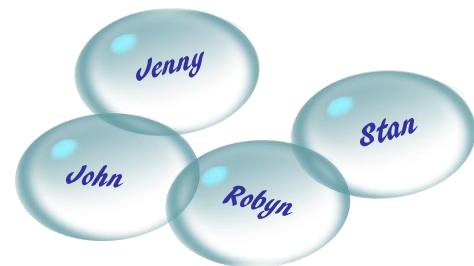
Our **AGM** which was due to be held in May has been postponed. We have an extension which allows us to defer this till the end of October. Social distancing may still be required then and could pose a challenge. Please consider nominating for a position on the Committee. We really do need new members with fresh ideas to come forward.

I look forward to seeing you at our rallies again.

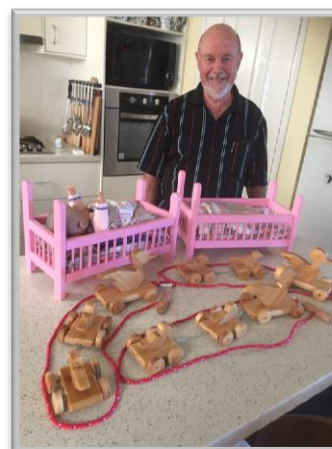
Keep safe

Len

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS APRIL & MAY



* * * * *



Angie had kindly forwarded me this photo of Jack for the Newsletter. A dear friend to us all, who passed away earlier this year....



PEMBERTON RALLY 7th-9th FEBRUARY 2020

Attendees: *Jeff & Wendy; Len & Marilyn; Ross & Sue; Graham & Sandy; Michael & Christine; Alan & Pauline; John & Robin; Mike & Mollie; Stan & Jenny; (9 vans)*

Thursday 6th: By 5:30pm seven couples were ensconced in the **Pemberton Caravan Park** and having an unofficial Happy Hour in the Campers Kitchen. (Two more couples, 'the workers' were due in the next day when the rally was officially due to start).

What a day this had been! Three couples had to load up Engels with their food for the weekend as the van fridges simply stopped working...2 days before departure! Here in the park, one vehicle had been backed into a tree, causing damage to the tailgate



Town Pool behind the Camp

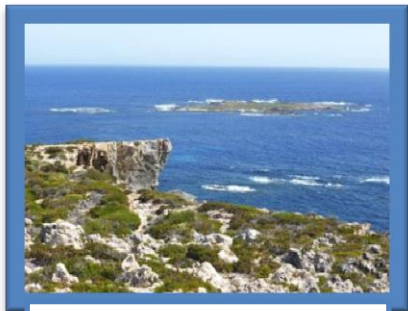
Meanwhile, most of us had met or followed VERY LARGE (mine site) vehicles on the main Perth to Bunbury Highway and had to slow down for roadworks and that was without Stan & Jenny missing the turning and nearly ending up in Augusta. Luckily they were saved by a Ranger before they went any further up the logging trail. Phew! What a start to our weekend!

Friday 7th: Whilst waiting for the other members to arrive it was a rather relaxed D.I.Y. kind of day, with some members going for a drive or a check on the local shops, having a chat. By 5:00pm all vans except one had arrived and we had gathered near the Campers Kitchen for Happy Hour.

Len had just officially opened the rally when we noticed a stranger in our midst! ...another camper bearing gifts!! Yes, a man carrying a big fruit box with some very LARGE AND RIPE strawberries in it. Yum! The box went around the circle and was quickly emptied! Apparently there was a 'pick your own' farm not far from the Caravan Park.

The Sportsman's Bar, a short walk up the hill was the destination for dinner. We thoroughly enjoyed the meal, with the company of a local couple, before the short (quick) walk back down the hill to the caravan park... and bed. Would recommend them to other caravanners passing through.

Saturday 8th: We were all ready with our picnic lunches packed and stowed in vehicles by 9am. Seven cars left the caravan park traveling in convoy, heading towards **Northcliffe** for our morning tea at **The Hollowbutt Café**. Natasha and her team looked after us well, great coffee and food. Some members added a touch of nostalgia to their morning with a visit to the 'old dunny' out the back!



Windy Harbour



Enjoying the view



Nature's Window

Leaving Northcliffe, we took a scenic drive towards **Windy Harbour**. By-passing the settlement we headed for **Nature's Window** up on the cliff-top. Wow! Everyone was in awe of this! At the end of the bitumen pathway were

viewing platforms to enable us to safely take in the majestic view of **Nature's Window**. The remainder of the scenery was just as awesome with a clear outlook to the small islands out at sea, fishing boats, a cruise ship and the settlement down below, PLUS a close look at a group of whales passing by!!



Communication Towers



Needle-like Rocks Formations



Swamp Bottlebrush

Some of us went further up on the Cliff Walk to check out the **Communication Towers** whilst others sat on the benches grabbing a quick rest before climbing back into our cars to do a scenic drive via **Tookulup Point**. Along the way we noted some very interesting rock formations, took a peek at **Point D'Entrecasteaux** and finally, the stunningly beautiful **Salmon Bay** before making our way back down to **Windy Harbour Settlement** for our picnic lunch. A perfect spot was found on the grassed area beside the children's playground. At the conclusion of lunch, a few of us sat and relaxed whilst others walked to take a look at the beach and surf club, and others did a scenic drive around the settlement to see the various styles of old holiday shacks. Then we were on-the-road-again, heading back towards Northcliffe taking in the many displays of beautiful, brightly orange **Swamp Bottlebrush** along the roadside.

An opportunity was taken by some of our group to stop at **Mt. Chudalup** (a large granite monadnock) to take a closer look. The walk up to the start of the climb was a bit tricky as it was a series of steps made using small gravel! However, a wooden bridge onto the rock was helpful. Len, Wendy and Jeff all triumphed and were soon walking along the top of the rock and admiring the view, whilst Graham, Sandy and Marilyn went up part of the way still managing to see great views of the distant sand-dunes. Unfortunately, Stan and Jenny had to turn back when Jenny slipped on the gravel and injured her foot.



View of Mt. Chudalup



Graham H taking a breather



...98...99...100! Or thereabouts!



Back in Northcliffe, and Stan and Jenny were the first to venture into the **Understory Painted Tree Gallery and Nature Trail**, a 1.2km walk looking at different art forms created in burnt-out trees and natural surrounds (following the big bushfire in Feb 2015). A great experience...and a chance to see many more Swamp Bottlebrush growing naturally. We were all very impressed!

5:00pm Happy Hour in Pemberton was held on the grass in front of the Campers' Kitchen again. After a quick group photo here, we had drinks and a chance to review the adventures of our day out. Everyone was tired but happy! Dinner at vans and an early bedtime was to follow.....



Sunday 9th: At 9:00am it was a BYO cuppa morning tea together. Sandy provided some biscuits and slices, plus some Spanish Melon (tastes a little like Honey Dew melon) chunks on a plate for those who were keen to taste test this unusual fruit.

Four couples then packed up and headed for home to attend to work/medical appointments etc. whilst those remaining went their separate ways for the day, driving over to **Manjimup** to visit relatives/shops or around the local area and into the center of Pemberton for a look at the **Old Picture Theatre**, the town layout and buildings of interest, plus...lunch at The Crossings Bakery (Yum!)

5:00pm Happy Hour was in the Campers' Kitchen. Graham (V.P.) officially closed the rally before we all retired to vans to have dinner and start to prepare for the trip home.

Monday 10th: With a cool breeze and a sunny day to send us on our way, the remaining five vans left the park and went our separate ways. This had been a busy, fun, adventurous weekend at a great Caravan Park. Thank you to everyone who participated and made it so enjoyable!

Until next time, safe travels....Sandy H