

Sydney - Central Coast A Van Group NOVEMBER 2006.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming new members is always a joy and recently President Robert has welcomed

Alan & Pamela Avery-Pearce	Bateau Bay
Paul & Margaret Dirago	Lighthouse Beach
Ronald & Rosalind Farrow	Heathcote
Doug & Bernie Kennedy	Davistown
Billy & Gina Loudon	South Penrith
Ian & Kay Miller	Budgewoi
John & Julia Radford	Gloucester
Margaret Van Eyk	Brandy Hill
Paul & Robin Walker	Forresters Beach
Peter & Suzie Wallis	Longueville

We hope you get an opportunity to meet and greet these people at a gathering soon.

GATHERINGS

Since our formation members have been traveling widely, Gloucester for Christmas in July, then some headed to Shoal bay, Warumbungles and for the Melbourne Cup Umina on the Central coast.

Gloucester was not quite so cold for our second visit. Friday night in the pump-house we started the festivities with Christmas Puddings. Saturday was market day and members enjoyed inspecting the stalls in the main street which was closed to vehicular traffic.

Saturday evening 47 members gathered in the Hotel and enjoyed a delicious Christmas fare, turkey Ham with the trimmings followed by traditional Christmas pudding.

John Brown led a group on a motor tour of the Barrington tops, so that we could enjoy some of the magnificent views from the Barrington tops1.



Christmas Dinner



Friday night in pump-house



Joan Smith won the raffle

Report for SCCAvan group Inc. to Shoal Bay 26 - 30 July 2006.

Report by Anne Corbett.

After Christmas in July at Gloucester 9 vans packed up and headed off to Shoal Bay where we met up with 5 more vans plus one person in a cabin making 28 people in total.

We all arrived intact but not before Janette had brakes problems. Everyone set up camp then did their own thing for the rest of the day till Happy Hour.

Thursday: Most of us set off on a walk to Mt Tomaree. At the base we separated into 2 groups, one group going to the top of the Mt the other group going around the foreshore to the Tomaree Head. Coffee was enjoyed back in the village café afterwards. That night a delightful dinner was had at the Shoal Bay Resort. Thanks to Bronwyn, Warwick and their son who works there.

Friday: Warwick, Bob and Neil went to Williamstown Museum of Flight while the rest of us drove firstly to Gan Gan lookout overlooking Nelsons Bay and Stockton Beach, then to the Macadamia Nut Farm for a tour of the property by the owner. Many items were purchased including macadamia ice creams. The 3 men joined us and we split into smaller groups some returning to Shoal Bay the others visiting the winery where we received fantastic deals on wine sales. Bronwyn also graduated from her 2 glasses of sherry at a previous gathering to 2 bottles of port. A very enjoyable lunch was had in the restaurant. Large pies with masses of peas and potato were eaten by 6 people. Chai Lattes were enjoyed for the first time by many of those present while Warwick devoured a lemon meringue pie in front of us all.

Saturday: We enjoyed a lovely walk along the foreshore from Soldiers Point to Nelsons Bay where we had lunch. Some people walked back to Soldiers Point while others drove back to Shoal Bay (picked up their cars earlier). Thanks to Greg for organising the walk. Balderdash was played before and into happy hour. A fish and chips meal was enjoyed in the rec room while the footy was on the TV.

Sunday: Unfortunately we (Corbetts) had to leave but I am told it was a relaxing day with some people visiting the local Sunday markets.

Monday: Time to pack up and leave after a very enjoyable 6 days.

Thanks again to Warwick and Bronwyn.

Warrumbungle /Kaputar gathering:

Report by Tom Thomas.

"Attendance peaked at 7 vans at the Warrumbungles, with the Browns arrival delayed by radiator problems, and new members Ian and Kay Miller welcomed to the fray

.The weekend coincided with the World Rogaining Championship, so was a tad hectic for the first couple of days. (If you don't know what "Rogaining" is, ask an attendee to explain, but essentially an extension of "Orienteering").

Activities included the usual walking, talking/socializing and everyone seemed to be enjoying the break. The Sittes unfortunately pulled out early, with Frank crook with a tummy wog. We hope he quickly recovered.

Whilst it had been and still was hot with fire bans in place in some areas, they did not apply to the Warrumbungle region, so we were able to have evening/night campfires. World class dampers were cooked in the camp oven thanks to Elaine and John . To all those who took wood, a big thank you also.

On to Narrabri, where a decision was taken to stay in town at the FPA park where facilities were a bit more amenable in the hot conditions.

The Nanmdewar scenery was spectacular, the highlights being Mt Kaputar itself, and the "Sawn" rocks.

The group of 12 (including Fran & Ann from Canberra - a befriended couple in ... wait for it ... a Jayco Heritage) had dinner at the local pub, and between us won two first prize and one third prize in the meat raffles. (Eat your heart out Maureen!!!). Bill was roped in to bone the lamb legs, and the Corbett's BBQ and various fry pans cooked up a great roast dinner for all the next night. WOW!!!

All in all a very worthwhile gathering - we hope Alvin and Valerie are OK - they were to host the gathering, but ill health prevented their attendance."

AUSTRALIAN TOUR - PHIL & TRISH BRADY.

Following the national gathering at Nuriootpa, Phil and Trish set out on an around Australia Tour in their Avan towed by the faithful Subaru wagon.

They started their trip from Port Augusta, north along the Stuart Highway to Darwin and then through the Kimberley down the west Coast of WA to Perth and returned along the Eyre Highway across the Nullabor, thence to Louth and Bourke and back to Sydney. They were on the road 113 days and Phil's report includes all the statistics on fuel distances etc.

Phil noted "One thing that made a lasting impression from our trip was that we certainly live in "the lucky country". The amount of investment to create wealth in Roxby downs, the Argyle diamond mine, the iron ore mines in the Pilbara, the North West Shelf gas project and the gold mining at Kalgoorlie is massive"

"Long the track we often met up with the same people. We found fellow travelers to be all so friendly and anxious to share their experiences - where to go and what to see or watch out for. Mike and Di helped us a lot and when we went on our own way alone, we found plenty of people offering to lend a hand"

Phil in his report highlights some of the very interesting parts of Australia and some of the very interesting experiences that are available. If you are planning an around Australia trip consult Phil's notes for ideas of things to do.

Elizabeth and I recently completed a similar trip to WA and found the same as Phil and Trish that fellow travelers are friendly and helpful, and particularly fellow Avanners, who are always anxious to share their experiences with their Avans.