



*Jayco Jaybirds SA*

**April 2015**

**From The Editor**

Welcome to the Jayco Jaybirds SA club newsletter.

Many thanks to Sharon Parkinson for her write up of the McLaren Vale Rally and to Pauline for her photos.

Keith Greenlees Editor (kagreenlees@esc.net.au)

From Lyn .....

A very special welcome to our new members. I hope you are enjoying our rallies as much as I do. Alan, thanks for your great suggestions to change the pancake breakfast to Saturday morning and to add bacon and eggs to the menu. We will effect the change at our June rally. Of course participation is still optional. I think we said 9.30 am start but will confirm the time at happy hour on the Friday night.

Best wishes to Inga from all of us, we send you 'many rainbows' and hope to see you back camping soon.

We have decided to keep the same fees for 2015-2016. To retain your membership please transfer \$50 to our account by the end of June 2015.

Account name: Jayco Jaybirds SA Inc.

BSB 035 087

Acc Number: 152639

Our AGM will be held on 15th July 2015 at 7.00 pm. The Australian Caravan Company has kindly offered to host the meeting. It will be a short meeting followed by light refreshments.

All positions are for 2 years. Positions available are:

President

Secretary

Rally Programmer

Membership Coordinator

1 Ordinary committee member.

The format of the meeting will of course be 'flexible and fun!' Based on last year we expect the meeting to take about 20 minutes and then open for general questions and suggestions.



If you would like to nominate yourself for a position on the committee please let our Secretary know.

Secretary: [holloway\\_anne@hotmail.com](mailto:holloway_anne@hotmail.com)

Finally a question, does anyone know a cheaper rate for storing a van/camper trailer than \$21 per week at McLaren Vale Caravan Park.? If so can you please email me so that I can share the information with other members.

Please feel free to ring me if you have any further questions or suggestions. I look forward to much laughing at our future rallies.

Caio,

Lyn Wright

0437 327 342

### **MAY 1st-3rd 2015**

Beachfront Caravan Park

114 Victoria Street

VICTOR HARBOR

Ph. 8552 1111

Pet Friendly

Top Tourist Park.



**Registration has now closed for this rally.**

Registration is \$15 per person.

### **JUNE 12th - 14th 2015**

Williamstown Queen Victoria Jubilee Park

Corner of Mount Crawford & Springton Roads,

Williamstown SA 5351

Ph. 8524 6363

Pet Friendly

Pub meal has been booked at the Williamstown Hotel.





### **Booking into a Rally**

If you wish to participate in any of these rallies, you will need to :

- Advise Inga by email or telephone of your intention to participate **four weeks** before the rally date.  
[heast.skye@gmail.com](mailto:heast.skye@gmail.com)  
Mob. 0404 884 314
- ALSO, should you wish to arrive earlier or depart later than the dates booked by the club, you will need to communicate **DIRECTLY** with the caravan park concerned to discuss your dates of arrival and departure. Could you please also let Inga know that you have done so?

## **McLaren Vale Lakeside Caravan Park, McLaren Vale**

**Jayco Jaybirds: McLaren Vale Lakeside Caravan Park, 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>  
April 2015**

### **A Newbie's Perspective**

Tony and I had made initial enquiries about the Jayco Caravan Club when we first ordered our van and after making further enquiries once we were van owners we were placed on a "waiting list". Sometime later we were advised that a second club was going to be formed and were given the date of the AGM; unfortunately we were unable to attend the meeting and then life just seemed to get in the way.

Once the new club was formed we received a few emails, which luckily I'd kept, and contacted Keith in February this year when I was laid up, literally, after surgery. Nothing like 6 weeks enforced rest to put life in perspective and prioritise!

We were warned by quite a few seasoned "caravanners" to avoid Caravan Clubs like the plague, we were told we would have to wear matching shirts and caps and a bell would be rung to round us all up for Happy Hour and various other activities. Well I'm happy to report that this just wasn't the case, there was no bell ringing and no wearing of matching anything! I'm so happy about that because I'm not really into wearing matching outfits - it's the one thing that worries me about going to heaven.....wearing matching shroudsJ!!!!

Seriously though, we were welcomed with open arms to the group and we



couldn't have asked for a nicer group of people to spend a weekend with. Hopefully, our membership is accepted and we'll happily look forward to spending many more weekends with you all.

The McLaren Vale Caravan Park was great, with beautiful roomy grass sites, although it was mentioned that we probably shouldn't have had to pay for a site as we'd encroached that far onto Alison & Keith's. Sorry "peeps", we'll try to make sure that doesn't happen again but we can't



promise. On that note we'd like to say a special thankyou to Keith for lending us an extra water hose – in our haste to be so close to the Greenlees our water hose couldn't quite reach our van; apparently that's a trap for new players!!

We enjoyed a wonderful night of food and fun with a shared casserole night organised for Friday night, it was a veritable feast! Saturday dawned and breakfast seemed to run into morning tea and lunch was looming, I was feeling a little uncomfortable and a tad embarrassed as at this stage I was still sporting my PJ's and hadn't had a shower....another trap for new players it would seem! Once this tardy situation was rectified we tagged along with Polly, Peter, Lin and Phil and went to a few wineries and managed to drop some cash on a bottle of very tasty port from Chapel Hill Winery.



Saturday night saw a large group of us at the McLaren Vale Hotel where we had a lovely dinner and it was at this point that I was seriously starting to worry how I was ever going to keep my svelte figure when it seemed all I was doing was stuffing my face!!

Sunday morning it was a little sad as everybody was packed up and leaving with the exception of Sandra and Norm and ourselves. We all managed to amuse ourselves for the day with Tony and myself heading to Port Willunga to share fish and chips from the Star of Greece. This experience was recommended to us by friends and I have to say we weren't disappointed, the view from the cliff top was amazing and the chips were without a doubt the best I've ever had!





We then did a “reccy” of the Port Willunga Caravan Park to see what will be awaiting us in November....apart from another trip to Star of Greece! On returning to the park we shared Happy Hour with Sandra and Norm and as I was feeling like a true “caravanner” at this stage I asked another couple if they’d like to join us. That’s a story for another day – they have travelled Australia for the past 14 years working in Caravan Parks and kept us entertained with their tales.

In a nutshell that’s our introduction to Jaybirds and we’d like to thank you all for making us feel so welcome and accepted as part of the group. We’ve sent our membership form off and you just never know.....it may be approved and we’ll get to do it all again!

Cheers,

Sharon & Tony



## POWER To Go

What electrical equipment does your caravan need to power your lifestyle?

The answer is that RVers who always use caravan parks need very little, while those who want to have the occasional stopover outside a caravan park for a free camp need a lot more. Over time the caravan lifestyle gets into your blood. It does not matter if you have been vanning for a day or a lifetime, you will always find what other vanners use is just what the doctor ordered.

Free camping makes caravanning more affordable. However, to free camp a van must have a good “house” battery and of course be fitted with adequate size Solar Panels to keep the battery “topped up”. Then all is good to run the Engel on the refrigeration cycle (not Freezer.) and the LED lights between sunset and sunrise and you can laze for days in comfort. Use the Gas for the caravan fridge whilst at a free park.

Then there is the question of 240 volt mains type power from your battery. Free camping locations generally have limited facilities and do not provide mains electrical power to run air-conditioners laptops or TV’s.

This is where an inverter comes to the party. Inverters can be used anywhere at any time. Instead of fuel, inverters use the stored energy in the house battery to convert 12volt DC to 240volt power so that you can have mains power while free camping.

Not all inverters are the same. In fact some are on the market which should not be. These are called modified sine wave inverters; they typically make more noise, run hotter or produce interference. They are cheap and nasty.

Only Pure sine wave inverters should be used with medical devices like the CPAP machine or other sensitive equipment.

Inverters are generally specified according to how much electrical power (in watts) they can run and continuously produce. They can usually produce significantly more power for a short time, which is called peak power on start up of an appliance.

**BEWARE:** Inverters use a significant amount of battery power. Let’s assume you want to run a typical 1800Watt electric toaster from an inverter to make toast for breakfast. Running this toaster for 10 minutes will consume at least 30Amp/hours of precious battery.

**Not all inverters are the same, talk to an expert before buying one.**

If you are going to limit yourself to running low-power devices like laptops, LED lights, charging your phone battery..... an inverter between 300-600 watts and a house battery of 100Amp/hour is normally sufficient.

Submitted by Don McDonald.

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