



19TH NATIONAL CARAVAN CLUBS RALLY 2025

MUDGEE, NSW

NEWSLETTER # 6 | APRIL 2024

www.19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au

The Australian Rural Education Centre
267 Ulan Road, Bombira NSW

Monday 29th Sept. to
Tuesday 7th Oct. 2025

Proudly hosted by



19th National Rally of
Caravan Clubs

CONTENTS

- Please Join Us in 2025
- How to find Each Event
- Ukelele Sessions
- Merchandise Orders
- Trouble Registering?
- Dog Run area
- Musical Bingo
- Photo Competition
- Entertainment News
- Thank You to Volunteers
- First Aiders Wanted
- To & From the Rally
- Kate & Frank's Journey

Please come and join us in Mudgee.

For many members of NSW caravan clubs, this is your opportunity of just travelling a short distance to enjoy 9 days of entertainment. Unfortunately, some have never taken the opportunity of experiencing a national rally.

Please pass on this newsletter to other members of your club and encourage them to register and join you, in your trip to our national rally.

We ask club members to register as soon as possible. This helps our committee with their ongoing planning. There are several people who have registered but haven't paid a deposit. There are also people who may have forgotten to pay their second instalment. The second instalment payment of \$170 (powered site) was due on 30th Sep 2023.

The third and fourth instalment payments are due 30th September 2024 and 30th June 2025. Please note that only your full payment secures you a site. Bank details are:

BSB **112-879** and the account number is **416 061 843**

Please be aware that day visitors will not be allowed to attend the rally.

Where will every event be held in AREC?

The AREC not only has two large pavilions but it also has many small sheds. Seven of these are situated in the middle of the field. Most of these smaller buildings will be utilised during the rally.

A detailed map of the area will be supplied, showing where each event will take place.

Ukelele Sessions

Roslyn is keen to welcome you and join her in the two ukelele sessions. It doesn't matter if you have never learnt to play. All you have to do is strum along and join in the singing.

Please join Roslyn, in the small pavilion, and make some sweet music.



Merchandise

Our third order of NSW polo shirts has finally arrived. Thank you to those people who have waited patiently for their order. Unfortunately, we needed to order in lots of 100 and the distributor is a small company that takes quite a while to deliver.

The committee were pleasantly surprised how popular the shirts were. The shirts are in the NSW colours of sky blue, navy blue and white. The red represents the petals of the Waratah.

We have reduced the new shirts to the even dollar. The ladies' shirts are slightly fitted and sell for \$40. All men's shirts have pockets and sell for \$42.



Our national rally badges sell for \$8.

Postage – if you wish to have your shirts mailed to you, the cost is \$10.90 for anything that weighs less than 5kg. Several couples may wish to save on postage by requesting that their shirts are sent in the one package.



If you would prefer to collect your shirts at the rally, please note that these shirts must be paid for 3 months prior to the national rally.

Trouble Registering?

When you successfully complete a registration, an email will automatically be sent to you. If you don't receive a notification for your Online Registration or think that you may have made an error, please don't complete another registration.

If you wish to change any details on your registration, please contact Bev, our Registrar, or Anne (in Bev's absence - March to end of May). Either email, text or phone.

Dog Run Area

There will be a designated enclosed 'Dog Run' area, in AREC, where you can let your dogs run off their leash. Dogs must not be left unsupervised in this area.



Take the NRMA with you wherever you go by downloading the My NRMA app.

Visit the NRMA website for more information and check your roadside assistance cover, mynrma.com.au



Musical Bingo

Musical bingo is a variation of bingo that involves listening to music instead of numbers. The host plays a snippet of a song and players mark the squares that match what they hear. It's a fun way of testing your musical knowledge and enjoying your favourite tunes.



This isn't a trivia game. Players will be told the name of the song after the music stops for each song but it's fun to guess before the music stops.

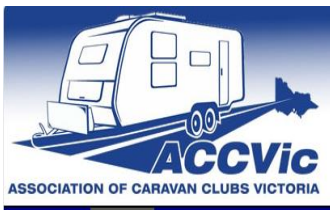
Brian, who is a member of the Newcastle Caravan Club, has offered to host the two sessions of Musical Bingo. Brian has an extensive knowledge of the music industry, after having been a professional DJ for many years. He will add to the enjoyment of the game by informing us of lots of interesting trivia.



Photo Competition

The photo competition has always been popular at past National Rallies so we are holding this competition again. The photographic competition will have five categories:

- Caravan Life
- Scenery/Sunsets/Seascape
- Wildlife
- Black and White
- My Favourite Photo



You may enter two photos in any or all categories. Your photos should be 13cm x 18cm (7" x 5"). Please write your name and the category on the back of your photo. The photos must be taken in Australia and no photoshop used.

Please submit your photos to Dianne, at the office, on Tuesday (30th Sept) between 9:30 & 1pm. They will be displayed in the large pavilion.



Your photos can be collected on the last day (Tuesday 7th) between 9:30 and 1pm. We will not be posting photos back to you.



A nine-year-old girl has disappeared after using moisturiser that makes you look ten years younger.

Darren Carr – ventriloquist / comedian



For over twenty years Darren Carr has been Australia's leading comedy ventriloquist performing thousands of shows both here and overseas. He has not only appeared at nearly every major entertainment venue, but has also worked numerous casinos, clubs, comedy venues, and cruise ships.

He has also been recognised by his fellow performers by being crowned the "Australian Performer of the Year" a record seven times at the prestigious "MO" and "ACE" entertainment awards.

In the USA he has been honoured to appear as the headline act at the International Ventriloquist Convention on four separate occasions.

Darren is keen to entertain us on our third rally night, Wednesday, 1st October. During the first half of the show, Darren will entertain us with his comedy routine. Darren is also a singer and plays the guitar. The second half of the show, he will supply some great music for dancing.

Thank you!

We have received several offers to assist us at our national rally. We appreciate your offers and will certainly contact you at some stage.

We have also heard from several people who are either knitting or crocheting items for those needy people. The easy shawl which consists of only three squares and a collar has certainly proved to be popular. Particularly with the beginners.

First Aiders Wanted

We will require some volunteers who are willing to assist as First Aid officers during our national rally. We would be grateful to hear from anyone who hold a First Aid Certificate and it will be current in October 2025.



Please contact Anne Carragher secretary@19thnationalcaravanrally.org.au



Travel Plans To & From Mudgee

We've heard that a number of club members have started to make plans for their 'roving rallies' to and from the next national rally. Sometimes the anticipation is just as exciting as the event.

Some people prefer to travel on their own and remain flexible in what they will do the next day. Others prefer to travel in small or larger groups. Not only for the company but also safety. It's also pleasing to meet up with members from other clubs who are going the same way as you or meeting up with people that you have met before, at previous rallies. Over the years, we have heard of some interesting adventures, to and from national rallies. It seems that many people don't prefer to take the shortest route.

Frank and Kate Smalley, from the Coromal Caravan Club, are one couple who took the long route to and from the WA national rally. Below is their story.

"WE LEFT HOME IN MAY". These words rocked me to my core. We were at our first National Rally in Forbes in December 2007. I was idly chatting with our neighbour, who was from WA. It blew my mind to think that someone could be on the road to an interstate National Rally for MONTHS!! I was so envious and when I told Frank, he felt the same. Unfortunately, we were both still working and not in a position to even contemplate this.



Fast forward to the Canberra National Rally in 2016. When we were watching the WA presentation, we both started thinking the same thing – we could do this!! By now we were both retired and had downsized our home, freeing up much needed time and opportunity. The planning began to combine our trip to Albany with an extended trip around our beautiful country. Having family spread throughout Qld and NSW, we had already covered much of this area, so decided to venture to parts unknown. As we are fully self-sufficient, we decided to free camp as much as possible.

Our journey began at a family wedding in the Blue Mountains in February and then we joined our caravan club for an extended rally through the alpine region of NSW. We parted company in March and headed south to Victoria. We spent weeks exploring the beautiful Lakes region, Mornington Peninsula and various State and National Parks. We had a 2 week stop in Melbourne to catch up with old friends. The Great Ocean Road was a definite bucket list destination and did not disappoint.

This led us through to SA. We couldn't spend as long as we would have liked here due to being booked into Uluru in June. We did get to wander through Adelaide and, of course, a visit to the wineries was essential. A few days in Port Augusta and a visit to Woomera were also important to us. A very delightful week was spent in Coober Pedy – what an awesome place – even if we did have to pay to fill the van's water tank!!

We headed into the NT. That was very enlightening. It was not as flat as I thought it would be and a lot greener than I expected. What an amazing Territory to visit though, and I would encourage everyone to discover this place for themselves. A week in Uluru was not enough to fully absorb the mighty grandeur of the rock itself, or nearby Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon. Nor was a week in Alice Springs, exploring the rugged canyons of the MacDonnell Ranges. We wandered slowly northwards, free camping most of the way. A stop at Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles) and the Daly Waters Pub are pretty much mandatory and well worth the time spent. On to Mataranka to avail ourselves of the thermal springs and then to Katherine where we enjoyed a cruise along the Gorge river – spectacular.

Our journey continued to Kakadu, another bucket list destination. We spent a week in Jabiru, and a week in Litchfield National Park, getting to explore this diverse and magical part of the NT. Stunning water holes, escarpments, wetlands and amazing Aboriginal art sites. I highly recommend a day trip to Ubirr. A 1km circular track takes you past awesome Aboriginal art sites before a steep 250m climb to a rocky lookout with 360 degree views over Arnhem Land and the Nadab Floodplain. We then spent 2 days in Darwin, keen to see the historical WW11 sites.

Our journey turned westward at this time, again just meandering along, staying mostly in free - or almost free – camps. Crossing the border into WA, we spent a week in Kununurra. We met up with some other caravan club members, all slowly heading for Albany. Mirimar National Park, Kelly's Knob and Lake Argyle are all well worth a visit.

We headed southwest to Purnululu National Park and spent 2 days clambering through the exceptional beauty of the Bungle Bungle Range. A few more days brought us to Broome. What a spectacular coast!! The ocean is a very vivid blue, and against the redness of the soil, is breathtaking. Other members of our caravan club were here also, heading for Albany. They headed more inland to see the wildflowers, whilst we travelled down the coast. Frank had worked here back in the 60s and was keen to see the changes. Port Hedland, Karratha and Exmouth were areas he was most keen to revisit. Coral Bay was absolutely stunning, looking out over Ningaloo Reef. Whilst in Carnarvon we visited the Space and Technology Museum, at the site of the NASA Tracking Station – fascinating.

From there we went to Shark Bay and had a drink in Australia's westernmost pub. The dolphin encounter at Monkey Mia was awesome. Then we found the church in Denham that Frank had helped extend with shell block back in the 60s. More free camping at Seven Mile Beach and Cliff Head (both right on the shoreline) and then a full day walking through The Pinnacles, absolutely awesome.

Further free camping took us to Perth, where we spent a week in a caravan park, exploring all the city had to offer. From Perth we drove to Busselton and took a trip out on the jetty to the underwater observatory. Slowly headed south-east to Denmark where we rejoined our caravan club members before heading into Albany for the National Rally.

There is no need for me to tell you how wonderful the Albany National Rally was, it's all on record. By this time, we had been on the road for 8 months.

After an amazing rally, we returned to Perth and met up with family who had flown from Sydney to celebrate my birthday. Another week in Perth and we headed for home, free camping until we reached Hyden, site of the spectacular rock formation known as Wave Rock. Then on to Kalgoorlie to visit areas as diverse as the Super Pit gold mine and the oldest continuous working brothel in Australia. South from there to Norseman and then, somewhat reluctantly, heading east. Our favourite free camp on this route was Newman Rocks, where we spotted many native animals coming to the water hole – emus, wallabies and even a camel!!

Crossing the border into SA, we stayed at several free camps along the coastline of the Great Australian Bight. The scenery was simply breathtaking. Due to a savage dust storm, we were stranded at the Nullarbor Roadhouse for 3 days, before continuing on to Ceduna where we spent a week in a caravan park to clear the dust out of the van, the car, and ourselves. We wandered on to Port Lincoln, known for its amazing seafood (particularly the oysters). A couple more weeks hugging the coastline brought us back to Port Augusta. From there we headed to Barmera to visit the site of the next National Rally scheduled for 2022 before Covid changed everything.

Back into Victoria where we spent many days at a free camp at Bottle Bend Conservation Reserve before heading back into our home state. Again, we visited some of our favourite free camps at Hay, Wagga Wagga and Jugiong – all of which we had stayed at many times before. On to Canberra, where we stayed for a few weeks catching up with family, meeting our latest grandson and exploring the sights. At this time, Covid began to rear its ugly head. We attended the NSW State Rally at the Hawkesbury Showground in March and then went home, thankfully arriving just a week before lockdown!!

All in all, we were on the road for 13 months, travelling some 35,000km. We visited 158 camp sites, the vast majority being free camps. Not at any time did we have any issues getting into free camps and most of those had plenty of room.



On many occasions we were the only ones there. Also, we did not even once feel unsafe. This country of ours is the most magnificent and diverse on the planet. Our people are, by and large, kind, helpful and friendly. If any of you have the opportunity to take some time travelling to the next National Rally in Mudgee in 2025 – JUST DO IT!! You won't regret it, there's so much to see out there.

Pink caravans are caravan parks and green moons are free camps we stayed at on our trip.