



## ULYSSES MEMBERS RV GROUP



# The Kermit Kronicle



**Contacts.** - *Ulysses Members RV Group,  
P.O. Box 4626, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 4113.*

**Coordinators** - *Rick Bedford, 0402 453380, admin@ulyssesrv.org  
- Ken Tacon, 0417630750, ken@ulyssesrv.org*

**Qld** - *Vacant*

**NSW** - *Tom Dudley, tom@ulyssesrv.org*

- *Phil Johnston, phil@ulyssesrv.org*

**Victoria** - *Marilyn & Richard Flinders, richard@ulyssesrv.org*

**SA** - *Vacant*

Fom the Editors Desk.

Only a month to go until our AGM gathering at the Austen Tourist Park in Tamworth. Phil and Fay and Di and Keith have got the planning well in hand for the event, and I for one are really looking forward to getting there, kicking back and catching up with lots of old friends and making lots of new friends.

The marquee will be set up on site early in the week for us to use and enjoy, and the Saturday lunch and dinner are well in hand. The AGM committee will be active in collecting your payment for the dinner during the week and weekend, so that we can pay the caterers at the beginning of the night and not have to be chasing people up for money then.

As usual, there will be a raffle with some great prizes on offer. This raffle is our major fundraising for the year, and the proceeds from that go to paying to run this club, and enable us to keep going without asking for membership dues or the like. I think it works well this way, simple but effective.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing coordinators for their help in keeping this club going. Special thanks to co-coordinator Ken Tacon for his help through the past year, and special thanks to Phil and Fay Johnston and Di and Keith Blessing and Marie Von Ahn for their work in getting the AGM together, not only for this year but for next year as well.

Sandy Thornthwaite has had to pull out of being State Coordinator for Qld due to a number of time consuming factors. Similarly, Bev Driver will not

be continuing as South Australian coordinator, due to the fact she and Ken are moving back home to Newcastle thanks to a transfer in Ken's work. So, for a start, we will be looking for people to put their hands up to take over in those two States.

Richard's work took him and Marilyn overseas a lot in the past year, but hopefully they will volunteer to continue on in the role in Victoria, perhaps with some help from some other big V residents to get some more events organised down that end of the continent.

Peter Moore, over in Geraldton, W.A. who helped to run the Odyssey there this year has indicated an interest in getting some events going over in the west for RV'ers, so keep an eye out for things happening over in Sandgroper territory in the future.

We are kicking of a new section in this newsletter - Handy Tips,- and Richard has kicked it off with a couple of tips to make your RV'ing enjoyable and worry free. If you have some tips you think could benefit your fellow club members, email them to us at admin@ulyssesrv.org or post to Ulysses Members RV Group, P.O. Box 4626, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 4113.

Travel Safe and Enjoy the Road,

Rick.



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Website:

<http://ulyssesrv.org>

### UPCOMING EVENTS.

#### Mildura Country Music Festival

Dianne & Colin Barrett are booked into the Mildura Country Music Festival, **30th Sept to 9th October**. They would love to have company and can be contacted on 08 8384 1645 or 0419 032 938 for any further details.

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#### NUNDLE

**Sept 30-3rd Oct**

Fossickers Tourist Park

Jenkins Street Nundle

02 6769 3355

Contact Jeanette on 02 4389344

**Pets are allowed**

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#### FORSTER

**25-27th November**

Lakeside Resort

13 Tea Tree Road

Forster

02 6555 5511

Contact Fay for this one 0266446105 or 0438215325.

**Sorry no pets allowed**

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#### KILKIVAN (Qld)

**18th - 20th November**

**Kilkivan Campground.**

**back to basics Christmas get together.**

**Click on the link to register on our website or ring Rick on 0402 453380.**

<http://ulyssesrv.org/kilkivan.html>

**The campground is PET FRIENDLY.**

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#### **4th AGM - Tamworth, NSW. October 20th to 23rd, 2011**

at the Austen Tourist Park, contact details as follows.

**581 Armidale Road, Tamworth NSW 2340**

**For Bookings: 1800 826 967**

**Telephone: (02) 6766 2380**

**Resident Managers:**

**Frank and Christine Edwards**

**Email: [bookings@austintouristpark.com.au](mailto:bookings@austintouristpark.com.au)**

If you haven't registered as yet, you can do so online by going to <http://ulyssesrv.org/agm4form.html> or you can print out the form at the back of this newsletter and send it to the address on the form.

At last count over 160 members have registered as attending the event. The park has bookings for 75 powered sites, 4 unpowered sites and 6 cabins for our event. What a tremendous response so far. By registering, the AGM committee can ensure that catering and amenities are in place for us all. Also, if you are attending, be sure to book your site or cabin at the Austen Tourist Park - details opposite page.

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#### **MERCHANDISE SHOP.**

*Our merchandise can be found in our shop online at <http://ulyssesrv.org> and click on the merchandise shop link.*

*We have stickers, and patches available to be sent out immediately, and you can order and pay for an RV shirt in your size, with or without having your name embroidered on the shirt.*



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*If you prefer not to use PayPal or online credit card payment, or even bank transfer, feel free to contact me by letter to Ulysses Members RV Group, P.O. Box 4626, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 4113,*

*or you can ring me on 0402 453 380 to work out a different manner of purchase.*

*If you have any other ideas for merchandise, drop me an email and we will look into finding suppliers and pricing same.*

### Tip. # 1.

When you get your van find out what wheel bearings it has. Then purchase a set of good quality bearings and a wheel bearing seal and cap. Seal them up in a plastic bag and stow out of the way in the van. If you do suffer a failure on the road then you can simply replace yourself or get the local garage to replace them for you. Even the motor mechanic in (insert name of your favourite outback town here), should be able to get you on the way in a couple of hours!

### Tip # 2.

Don't forget to check your anode at least yearly if you have a water heater. A roll of thread tape and a 10 inch shifting spanner is all you need to take it out and see if it needs replacement. Make sure the water is cold and you are not connected to mains or have your pump on. The anode is the large 'bolt' near the bottom of the unit, check your manual. Remove, if it's eaten away by over 50% then best to replace. It's often worth fashioning a piece of plastic to 'scrape the sludge out of the bottom. I often put the hose in the hold and flush it out.

Refit by putting some thread tape on the thread, 'roll' it in the direction of the thread for about 3 turns. The simply hand screw it back in. Don't overtighten it and then pump it full of water or allow the mains pressure to fill it before lighting. Check by turning on the hot tap and ensuring a steady flow of (cold) water.



Victorian Coordinator Richard has sent in a few tips for RV'ers which he thought could be the start of a "Handy Tips" column for the newsletter. What a great idea. If anyone has any tips they can email them to me at [admin@ulyssesrv.org](mailto:admin@ulyssesrv.org) or by post to P.O. Box 4626, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 4113.

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*At the Fleurieu Branch of the Ulysses Club, a number of members have gone down the RV path and are getting together and organising a few gatherings. Rob Ryan (The Hobbit) will be at the AGM at Tamworth, so nail him down if you want some more information about their get togethers and how you can join in.*

*Here is a report of a recent one they did.*

## **Greetings from South Oz.**

What a great burst of balmy weather we have been having with temperatures soaring to the low 20's, no wind and plenty of sunshine. After a fairly cold winter it was great to get away to the Wombat Rally at Warnertown. It is run by the Flinders Touring Motorcycle Association. They have the old football oval as their club grounds and this provides heaps of camping space, club room, toilets and of course an oval.

Most folk arrived on Friday, with caravans and campers in one area and the bikes in another. Plenty of firewood was at hand so we all stocked up for the evening. Nothing beats a good fire, a few drinks and great company.

Saturday came soon enough and we

were greeted by another perfect day. As we were close to Port Pirie, where we are going to have the SA Ulysses Odyssey, we had a look at the Memorial Oval where it is to be held.

Travelling through the countryside is an absolute treat at the moment; fields of green and gold are everywhere. By the time we got back to the rally site things were really getting going. The organisers build the biggest bonfire you have ever seen. We all gravitated to the oval area and they lit the bonfire. It was soon so hot, that we had to make many trips to the club rooms to keep our fluids up. It was great atmosphere to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Much talking, laughing and partying went on well into the night.

Sunday revealed the huge bonfire was now reduced to just smouldering ruins, just like a





few of the folk getting around. We all started packing up and saying our farewells. It had been a fabulous weekend with caravans, campers and bikes attending. It was time to pack up our 'Windy Maygo' and set off for home along the coast.

A weekend invested in friendship always yields great returns.

Happy Wanderings  
Hobbit

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### Christmas Get Together at Kilkivan, Qld.

*Janet Latimore has organised a get together in S.E. Qld at Kilkivan.*

*Here are some of the details from Janet.*

*I have made a booking for November 18th 19th for the Christmas party if this suites. We can still have camp fires then and no school holidays. In December everyone has so much*

*on so thought this is a good option. We are welcome to stay before and after these dates.*

*All in the one area with 15 powered sites and numerous un powered sites on our flat.*

*We can run leads off each other with their approval for extra powered sites if required.*

*I hope it is want you want as it is back to basics out there but very peaceful. Nearest pub and basic shop and butcher is 6 klms. Nice drive.*

*\$20 per couple for powered site \$18 for un-powered. The campsite is pet friendly, some people have even camped with their horses there in the past.*

*You can register on our website by clicking on the link on the front page or the forum, and I will let the campsite manager know our numbers close to the day.*

*Richard and Marilyn Flinders have taken possession of a new Jayco Sterling van. Here Richard provides a new owner report of the van and their shakedown trip.*

### **Jayco Sterling...A short Review**

We recently took delivery of a new Jayco Sterling caravan after Marilyn did some excellent research and 'persuaded me' of the economic benefits of changing our perfectly good Lotus Sprint!

We ordered just before the Melbourne show and did what we think is an excellent deal! We were given a date for delivery of late June and it was ready to the day they stated! We took delivery on Marilyn's birthday, 11th July. What do I do next year to 'beat' the gift she got this one??

### **The Van.....**

#### **Jayco Sterling 21.65-4 OB**

Standard Fitment (for the Off Road version)....



Check it out in the Jayco catalogue, but we did like the rear bathroom, away from

the kitchen and sitting area. Lots of bench space.

The east west bed, L style lounge with a 'footrest' settee opposite.

In the sterling you get a lot of 'extras' as standard including a small jewellery safe, fitted 'out of the way' under the L lounge, 22" TV/DVD, Wineguard Aerial, full stove with rotary plate for even cooking, Jack, Outside shower, hot and cold. Pillowtop mattress. Two 9Kg gas bottles, feature lights and plenty of power points.

### **Extra's We Fitted.....**

85W solar panel, Two slideouts, one for the bed and one for the lounge. Washing machine, Fridge/freezer, Upgraded IBIS air-conditioning. Drop side on the table making it suitable for use as a full 4 seater dining table. Fiamma Bike carrier.

### **On The Road**

We took it for a week's trial in mid July up to Deniliquin and Cohuna. It is not light, weighing in at 2400Kg as built. Towed with the Holden Colorado 3litre TD it handled very well with Hayman Reece Level Rides fitted. Just a hint of slight movement in a strong crosswind. I towed it mainly at 90-95Km/h measured on the GPS. At one point I had crept up to 105 but it was no problem!

Fuel usage was about 15.5l/100kms heading north and 13.8 heading south, must be the slope of the earth! Actually, probably the Great Dividing Range!

No issues with the undercarriage and all wheels cool on touch at each stop.

We have all heard about Jayco and the reputation for faults but apart from a draw latch that needed adjusting there was really



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no issues. The silicone seal of the decorative moulding on the rear has split but not an issue and they will fix at the first service along with replacing a cushion cover with a material fault discovered on pickup. Overall I would rate the quality excellent against the opposition and good against the car industry norm.

come near the price we got all this for.....

### *What We Will Have to Learn to Love*

Plenty of storage space but mainly split into smaller cupboards. Makes packing more difficult. Under bed storage taken by battery and slide out mechanism, limiting large internal storage.



Front boot contains the gas bottles and therefore has limited room so we can't carry all we used to! On the positive side it makes the van slightly shorter than it otherwise would be!

Outside TV entry point, for park plug in, goes to a spot inside about 2 metres from the TV. You figure it out?

If you use electric blankets then there is only one power point by the bed. We spotted it when looking at demo vans and got another fitted the other side. We didn't spot that

there isn't one near the table so you need to run a lead for your laptop!

### *What We Like*

The up rated air-conditioning is full reverse cycle, quiet and remote control. Able to set a timer for turn on or off, ideal for days out sightseeing or warming the van before getting out of bed.

Lots and lots of draws. Marilyn cannot get down to cupboards anymore and this makes it easy to use.

The slide outs give you just so much extra space.

The TV is well placed for use in bed or relaxing on the settee.

Feature lighting, small added touches of magazine rack, jewellery safe, excellent pillows and covers included. Light in the shower and lots of powerpoints.

Value for money. I don't think other vans can

### *Overall*

We can certainly recommend that you give the Jayco consideration if you are after a very good value van. Be aware of the weight and the 'off road' certainly adds to that but it does give you larger wheels and much better road clearance.

Thanks to Ken Driver for some good advice about his 25ft version and we will be at Tamworth if you want to have a chat about it. Bring a beer across or I can probably find you one in the much larger fridge/freezer we specified!!

***Richard & Marilyn Flinders***