



EDITORIAL

EDITION 70 – December 2025

Welcome one and all and this is the last Newsletter for 2025.

If submitting an article please send me:

- The document in Microsoft Word format (.doc)
- Send the photo/s in JPEG format in the **smallest size in Mb (resolution)**
- If you would like to send a PDF as well because you would like to have your photos placed strategically within the document, I can use this as the template and do my best.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to forward articles, jokes or photos - the more the better after all it is YOUR newsletter. The next due dates are listed below to assist you with your planning:

2026	
Due to Editor	Kermit Release
Monday 20 April 2026	Monday 04 May 2026
Monday 18 May 2026	Monday 01 June 2026
Monday 17 August 2026	Tuesday 01 September 2026
Monday 16 November 026	Tuesday 01 December 2026

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Lap Rug Coordinator	Janice Keyzer		

NATIONAL CALENDAR

Dates	State	Event	Location
27 Nov-01 Dec	QLD	Christmas Rally	Trinity Island Park
11-13 Dec	TAS	Christmas Rally	Tarraleah Estate
31 Dec 25	TAS	New Years Eve Rally	Sheffield, details to be confirmed
2026			
11-13 Feb 26	QLD	Tag-a-long	Part A – 11-13 Feb Toowoomba Showgrounds 12 Feb, Downstream Tourist Railway & Museum 13 Feb, Bull and Barley Inn evening meal
			Part B – 14-16 Feb Texas Dumaresq Square 15 Feb, Texas Heritage Centre & Tobacco Museum 15 Feb, Texas & District Memorial Bowling Club lunch
11-18 Feb 26.	NSW	Summer Rally	Culburra Beach
14-15 Feb 26	WA	Birthday Bash	Greenhead OR Southern Star Caravan Park at Vasse (between Busselton & Margaret River)
18-26 Feb 26	QLD	Back to Basics	Music Muster, Coverty
08-15 March 26	ALL	URC Birthday Bash	North Haven NSW
07-12 Apr 25	QLD	Ubobo Music Campout	Boyne Valley Community Centre
06-13 May	NSW	Autumn Rally	Gulargambone
07-10 May 26	QLD		NRMA Woodgate Beach Holiday Park
18-24 May 26	ALL	Ulysses AMC Inc AGM	Nambour Showgrounds
05-12 Aug 26	QLD	Christmas in August	Part A - 05-06 Aug , Wooroolin Wetlands Area
			Part B – 07-09 Aug , Bait Layers Camp Oven Ballogie via Kingaroy
			Part C – 10-12 Aug , Jandowae Showgrounds
12-18 Oct 26	TAS	TAS tag-a-long	To the URV National rally

12-19 Oct 26	ALL	URV National Rally	Broken Hill, NSW
03-06 Dec 26	QLD	Christmas Rally	Woodford Showgrounds

NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Hello all

As I pen this from a very warm Narromine rally Marilyn and I look forward to returning home, after nearly 3 months on the track.

And what an adventure has been had, for ourselves and all the others from the big island who travelled to Tasmania for the Annual RV Rally (75 souls were in attendance there!).

Tassie coordinators Mike and Gary and their lovely offsiders Sue and Jan did a marvellous job of catering for everyone's needs in Longford, and all targets were met apart from the Great Lake tagalong tour which I was supposed to lead (cancelled due to gale force winds on the day).

Yes, the weather was challenging at times, but I didn't see too many people not enjoying themselves. Thanks a million, you southern guys – a really great show!

To bring you all up to speed, at the Tassie AGM the following positions were sorted for the next 12 months:

National Coordinators	Bob Lucas, Vince Toonen and Lawrie Rhodes
NSW Coordinators	Ian & Jenni Bailey
QLD Coordinators	Gordon & Judy Crosswell, Blip & Di Hendriks (at this stage)
Victoria Coordinators	Janice & Freed Keyzer, David & Su Poyser (new)
WA Coordinators	Alan Warner & Gerry Winter
Tasmania Coordinators	Mike Meyman & Gary Rush
SARV (SIG)	Hobbit & team
Webmaster	Richard Flinders
Membership Coordinator	Vince Toonen
Merchandising Officer	Blip Hendriks (new)

Lap rug Coordinator

Janice Keyzer

Newsletter Editor

John Webb

And, as it's been a very well-kept secret (not!), the venue for our 2026 Annual Rally was disclosed by Ian and Jenni as being at Broken Hill racecourse, from 12-19 October 2026.

The venue for the 2027 rally is still under consideration/negotiation.

After the last 12 months on the "little island", Arvie's foster parents Gary and Jan handed him over to Mike and Sue (also from Tassie), as they were seeking a quiet, well-behaved travelling companion for their forthcoming New Zealand adventure.

As Ian and Jenni were going to be still down in Tassie in November, they had handed the Springtime rally over to ex NSW Coordinators Ian and Carolyn Hoyer, but then Ian (Hoyer) became subject to medical treatment, so they passed it on to our mate Lawrie (Dusty to some), and he's done a commendable job in Narromine.

Latest reports are that following a serious medical episode in Tasmania, Kevin O'Donoghue has recovered well, and he and Jackie are still exploring down there. Ian Hoyer is also doing well with his treatments, as is our sadly missed musician extraordinaire Gordon, up in QLD and John Whittall is making slow progress with his recovery. We wish them all well with their respective challenges, and hope to see them back on the road in the not-too-distant future.

On a sadder note, it is with heavy heart I advise that our QLD member Ian Fettes ran his last race with that insidious disease on Melbourne Cup Day. To his wife Karen and their family, we extend our love and condolences at this traumatic time.

Wherever you are, travel safely, stay well, and stay upright ... and have a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthier year in 2026!

Bob ('n Marilyn) Lucas #32872

And Vince & Adele, and Lawrie & Vicki

National Coordinators

Ulysses Members RV Group



VALE QUEENSLAND MEMBER

Ian Dundas Fettes

14.03.1945 - 04.11.2025



It is with deep sadness that we advise of the passing of Ian Fettes.

Ian, his wife Karen and Liz 'the pooch' were constant attendees at Queensland Ulysses Members' RV Group gatherings as well as National and Birthday-Bash Rallies.

Ian and Karen had set-up Toyota Coaster Motorhomes in both Australia and New Zealand, spending time travelling in each, meeting up with friends, family and acquaintances in both countries.

Arriving in Australia in 1969, Ian quickly made lasting friendships through his sporting interests especially Targa Tasmania and Mt Cotton Hill Climb. Motorcycles were a side interest, hence his Ulysses' Membership. His interest in technology saw him heavily involved in researching ancestry.com and identifying birth links to family membership through DNA.

Ian truly valued the tremendous support of Karen during his 4-year journey with cancer and grateful that, through the Qld hospital system & palliative support, this battle was relatively pain free. Thank you for the memories, Ian.



In Ian's words – "Thank you for all the great experiences & friendships I have encountered during my lifetime. Bye."

Queensland and National Ulysses Members' RV Group

Gordon and Judy Crosswell - Blip and Di Hendriks - Members and Friends

LONGFORD NATIONAL RALLY REPORT - OCTOBER 2025



My first thought is to thank all who attended Longford, the very first Ulysses Members RV Group National Rally in Tasmania. For those coming from over the water, it was at reasonable cost to get big caravans etc here via the Spirit of Tasmania but those who made the move spent a reasonable amount of time here, which is the better way to do it. There really is a lot to see here and it just can't be done in a couple of weeks.

A big thank you goes to all those who helped before, during and after the rally. Every little bit helps and the rally would not have worked as well as it did without your help.

My second thought is about the weather. Wow, what a blast. Like many areas of Australia at the time we experienced something out of the ordinary and something we were not really

prepared for. Wind, wind and some more wind. It stopped a couple of our planned activities but it did not stop us enjoying the town of Longford, its facilities, its venues and the surrounding areas.

We all enjoyed the friendly nature of Longford's town folk, the help they provided us in many different ways and the events they put on for us. Well-done Longford.

We all go home after these rallies with many stories to tell and this year we will certainly have some different ones to talk about. Too many to tell here though.

Much fun was had by all catching up and meeting new friends with many activities filling the week, but just a couple of the highlights include the very serious and fast paced bingo night where a few of our members managed to snare some of the prizes away from the locals. The amazing private car museum was very interesting and informative. The whiskey tour and the graveside tales were eye openers. The weather didn't spoil our bowls afternoon as we moved inside where they had equipment for just such occasions and it was still great fun. Lastly, a wide variety of 'convicts' thoroughly enjoyed their night of freedom.

The RV Group's national knitting team was able to help us donate a very large number of beanies, blankets and baby's clothes etc to three local charities, The Toosey Aged Care Facility, Tassie Mums and The Helping Hand where they were all very much welcomed. Thanks team.

From here we look forward to Broken Hill and we are sure Ian and Jenni will have lots for us to do. I will be leading a tag along for any Tasmanians wishing to make the trip, and of course anyone else is welcome to join in.

Mike Meyman

EMAIL tasmania@ulyssesrv.org

2026 NATIONAL RALLY - BROKEN HILL

Further details to follow in the next edition of Kermit.

Queensland

TRINITY ISLANDS HOLIDAY PARK

CHRISTMAS RALLY REPORT

November 2025

Where is the Trinity Islands Holiday Park I hear you ask? Well, it's 11kms from Burrum Heads at the mouth of the Burrum River, just 24 kms from Hervey Bay, 36 kms from Maryborough and 93 km from Bundaberg. Also, just a short drive from the park to the Burrum River for those who wanted to catch fish.

A new venue for the last get together of the year. Gordon and Judy did all the planning for the event, unfortunately, they were unable to attend as Gordon is still undergoing cancer treatment and was instructed to not venture too far from base. We all wish him well and a quick recovery.

That left running the event to Blip and I. He did most of the heavy lifting while I did the paperwork. With around 40 members and guests present from as far afield as NSW, Dalby, and Rockhampton, it was obvious there was approval for the venue with everyone looking forward to a weekend on the sunny Queensland coast.

It was definitely sunny, with temperature in the mid to high 30's most days and the humidity levels weren't necessarily pleasant with regular overnight and afternoon rain. The only drawback with the location was most sites were low lying and while it was a problem walking around through the water/mud, we can be glad we were all in caravans and mobile homes. Tents would have really had a problem.

Thursday evening started with Happy Hour and the usual meet and greet activities of working out who was there, what activities were going to happen over the weekend, who was still to yet to turn up, who needed to do membership paperwork and who was going to attend Friday's craft session or the fishing competition.

Friday started out fine following overnight storms to add to the water on the ground. The day was basically free for everyone to participate in a successful craft session and fishers catching and releasing several fish. The rest of the day was available for everyone to explore Burrum Heads and the area, check out the river mouth and the bay with the buildings of Hervey Bay in the distance and locate the Bowls Club for the Saturday barefoot bowls and dinner.

I could say that Happy Hour was a quiet affair without Gordon's guitar, but the volume of chatter was defeating Boppa's attempts to provide background music. There was also an unsuccessful attempt to gather numbers for barefoot bowls, the dinner, and the requirements for a bus to attend either event. A community BBQ dinner added to the social atmosphere. Then, more rain overnight just to replenish the ground water levels that had started to dry out during the day.

With members scattered over a large area, they are big camp sites here but everyone was not located in a concentrated area, Saturday morning required a long walk around to get

definite numbers for the barefoot bowls, 11, and the dinner, 33, and cancelling the courtesy bus as there was no longer a need. It's a bit like herding cats and I think we might have to devise a better way of firming up numbers. Suggestions are welcome.

A social game of bowls in the very hot sun was enjoyed by those who participated. Following the bowls we took our places for dinner. The Bowls Club provided a very comprehensive range of succulent meals and midway through the meals, Mother Nature entertained us with an excellent sound and light show courtesy of a violent thunderstorm. This supplemented the live guitarist/singer entertainment provided by the Bowls Club. He got people up and dancing which the storm didn't achieve.

After dinner it was back to the caravans and mobile homes and the need to paddle through the water to get to the door.

Sunday was drive day with a route devised by Neil and Faye. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend however excellent Driver Leadership was performed by Chris and Janet, with Richard as Tail-end Charlie.

With lunch planned for the Theebine Hotel, we headed out for a morning tea stop at Lenthall Dam. Getting there involved some easy gravel roads with water crossings caused by the previous rains. Great spot, lovely picnic area and facilities. From there it was a scenic drive via the Wongi Waterholes, Oakhurst, Mungar, Tiaro to Theebine for lunch. The big surprise was the condition of the old hotel as it has been renovated and has great facilities including a stage made from the old Railway Station and live music during lunch.

Sunday at the Theebine Hotel is BBQ Day and a great choice of meals was enjoyed by everyone, especially the very efficient process to get the food to you promptly.

From Theebine we went for a look at the Dickabram Bridge, the oldest bridge in Queensland. This is a combined rail and road bridge and is currently closed during a restoration process. Foot access is open and some intrepid explorers crossed to the other side for a look at the rest area. There was a rush back as a storm rolled in very quickly and with only a bit of dampness we were back on the road and managed to outrun the storm.

Then it was on through Miva and Tiaro with the day ending at the Bamboo Land Nursery at Torbanlea for coffee and ice-creams. Then, back to camp to find out the storm we had outrun had hit the camp and, while being of short duration, it dropped lots of rain and so everything was flooded again.

The final Happy Hour involved the performing of the traditional raffle with many prize winners. The socialising continued into the evening until everyone became hungry and headed back to camp.

Monday morning, and it seemed everyone was up early, packing and decamping in an attempt to beat the heat of the day. With “good byes”, and see you at the next one” all said, it was on the road home for most and on to the next part of their trip for others.

For Therese and I it was a good trip until about Burpengary, where a broken-down truck further down the motorway caused us a 45 minute delay .

Thanks everyone who participated in the weekend, I think it went well, and thanks to Gordon for the work he put into the planning.

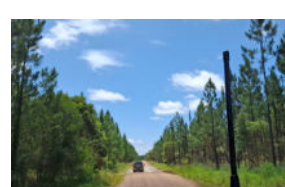
THE NEXT QLD COORDINATED RALLY will be 11 FEBRUARY - 16 FEBRUARY 2026.

This is proposed as a two-part event taking in the Toowoomba Showgrounds and the Texas Dumaresq River Rest Area.

There will be a flyer out in the near future regarding this event. Stay tuned.

Bevan bradford@auswingriders.com

Thanks to Blip and Di and Therese





ULYSSES MEMBERS RV GROUP QLD

PROPOSED PLANNER 2026

This is a guide ONLY to be utilised as a forward planner for 2026.

11-16 FEBRUARY

2 PARTS

PART A: 1/12/13 Feb TOOWOOMBA SHOWGROUNDS

Ph: 07 46347400 Glenvale Road GLENVALE

Downstream Tourist Railway & Museum: 12th Feb a.m.

Bull & Barley Inn 13th Feb 07) 46961235 Evening meal

PART B: 14/15/16 Feb - TEXAS DUMARESQ RIVER REST AREA

Texas Heritage Centre Tobacco Museum 0411452190 Sunday 15th Feb 10.30 a.m.

Texas & District Memorial Bowling Club Avon St Sunday 15th Feb Lunch 46531159

18-26 FEBRUARY - BACK TO BASICS MUSIC MUSTER at COVERTY (Proston)

08-15 MARCH - REFLECTIONS NORTH HAVEN HOLIDAY PARK

109 The Parade, NORTH HAVEN, NSW 2443 “Birthday Bash”

07-12 APRIL - UBOBO MUSIC CAMPOUT at Boyne Valley Community Centre

07-10 MAY - NRMA WOODGATE BEACH HOLIDAY PARK

Ph: 41268802

88 Esplanade WOODGATE

18-24 MAY ULYSSES Inc SUNSHINE COAST NATIONAL RALLY

NAMBOUR SHOWGROUNDS

05-12 AUGUST

3 PARTS "Christmas in August"



PART A: 05,06 Aug WOOROOLIN WETLANDS REST AREA

PART B: 07,08,09 Aug BAIT LAYERS CAMPOVEN GROUNDS
0428714926 Ballogie via KINGAROY

PART C: 10,11,12 Aug JANDOWAE SHOWGROUNDS 0459874939 Warra Street,
Jandowae

12-19 OCTOBER BROKEN HILL NSW ULYSSES MEMBERS' RV NATIONAL
RALLY

03-06 DECEMBER WOODFORD SHOWGROUNDS 0437390862 Neurum
Road

05 Dec Woodford Hotel 5th Dec Saturday Ph: 54961044: Evening Meal

Gordon and Judy

0423 864 492

gordonjudith@bigpond.com

New South Wales

I would have to say this was a hand me down rally as our State Coordinators Ian and Jenny would be still in Tassie. They asked Ian and Carolyn Hoyer to organise this one, however after they did organise it Ian found out he had very serious illness that needed attention: so the pass came to me, which certainly wasn't a problem as Ian and Carolyn had done all the hard yards.

Everyone's thought are with Ian.

Well, what a great Rally, YES pretty warm and windy but as usual it's the people that make any rally. Vicki and I rolled in on Monday as I like to get in early only to find Paul and Cheryl Allen already there, which was a nice surprise.

The rally actually started on Wednesday and they all started rolling in Caravans, Motorhomes, Bus and the Hills stayed in the motel.

Dean and Kerry Riley, the park managers put on PIZZA all you can eat for \$15 a head as a welcome, and in Dean's words I got 'em busted.'

Friday night Dinner at the Aerodrome was \$30 a head with sweats: all done by their volunteers who did a wonderful job for the 50 people who attend.

Saturday night, Dean and Kerry put on a camp oven Dinner \$15 each and the people who went enjoyed it.

The rally was low key and everyone to make their own fun which did work as people said they didn't feel they really had to be anywhere at any time apart from Friday Dinner. The only downer was 7 people were sick with flu at the end.

Dean and Kerry's hospitality and efforts were much appreciated.

Safe travels to all when doing Rallies and our next summer rally is in Culburra Beach \$49.50 seniors a night which is on 11th to 18th Feb 26. Ph 44295405.

Happy Trails Dusty and Vicki.

Webmaster Report

December 2025

Did you know that we run our website using as many 'free' programmes as possible! It's the only way we can keep the membership cost at zero!

For example, the website is built using what is called 'open source' software, in this case WordPress. It is programmes like these designed and maintained by volunteers around the world that keep the original idea of the www (world wide web) alive! The history of WordPress is quite interesting and a good snapshot of what the internet should be. For a quick overview you can look at this site!

<https://www.wpbeginner.com/news/the-history-of-wordpress/>

In a similar way we also use Google products like Google Docs, Sheets etc. to keep our membership data safe & secure.

The 'free' versions are there to lure you into subscriptions but used carefully you can get benefits like the programme that lists and shows you the upcoming rally calendar on the website or the embedding plug in that allows you to read Kermit on the webpage or easily download for later, these 'free' versions help us to bring you the information in a format that is easy to use!

There are free, 'open source' programmes for most tasks that you can use at home instead of paying for expensive subscriptions, like the one I'm using now to write this... Open Office is a free version of Microsoft Office and like our website builder, WordPress, maintained by enthusiastic volunteers. Why not browse the internet, you will be amazed at what is out there! Just be careful when you click as always and use common sense, after all do you really believe the advert that says the used 1997 Hyundai Excel is your ideal tow vehicle!

As always if you spot an issue, your browsers block our site (a common issue due to over-enthusiastic virus programmes) or just have some suggestions then please do contact me at webmaster@ulyssesrv.org or call 0401 140 585 (but not too late please).

Richard Flinders

Webmaster

Western Australia

Just got home from our most recent adventure at Harvey a couple of hours south of Perth.

We were a little concerned regarding the venue as we had reports that it wasn't a very good park, as it turned out it proved to be quite ok, reasonable grass on sites and a nice size camp kitchen for our small group of 11.

We did the normal things, coffee on Saturday morning at the bakery, dinner at the Wokalup Tavern which was close by, lovely meal enjoyed by all and as it has a brewery attached some different choices of beer for those who partake.

Sunday morning saw some of our group depart as they haven't "gotten around" to retiring as yet although they did hang around to enjoy coffee and ice cream at the Ha Ve Cheese factory. The rest of us went to check out an Italian Internment Camp Memorial after lunch which was well worth the effort.

Our afternoons and evenings were spent enjoying happy hour and fun and games after dinner. So, while it was just a weekender it was kept quite busy and although just a small group lots of fun.

We are in the process of planning our Birthday Bash which will hopefully be held over the weekend of 14th/15th February. We have two venues in mind being Greenhead where we held last year's event or Southern Star Caravan Park at Vasse which is in between Busselton and Margaret River. Just waiting for details from both venues before we make our minds up.

By the time you get to read this it will almost be Christmas so I would like to wish everyone seasons greeting and hope you all have a wonderful time.

Alan

Tasmania

Ross, the Rally after the (Longford) Rally. October 2025

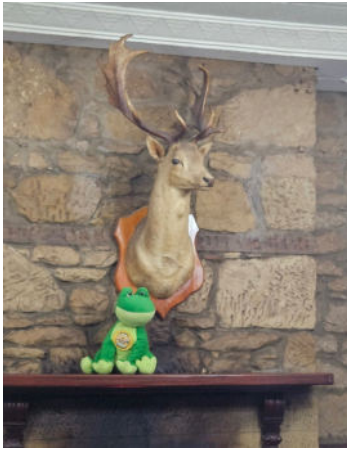
A good number of rally goers attended Ross, including some of the mainland folk still in Tassie. Our unusual spring weather from a few weeks previous had passed by and things were back to normal. At last.

During the three-day event our rally goers had no problem entertaining themselves in the very historic township. It was a very short walk into town and a number of various shops and stores were open to visit, including the historic sites. There are three bakeries in town and I think we visited them at least daily. Yum.

The venue we used was everything we needed and suited us very well. Daily happy hours were of course the norm as well as card nights in the club rooms with the heaters on.

Saturday night we ventured to the Man o Ross hotel and found the place was packed. It was the last night before it closed for a multi-million dollar make over so all the locals crammed in. Luckily, we had made a booking and we had our own room, perfect. The kitchen was closed due to the upcoming reno and the van outside was doing pizzas only. All good though.

Arvie was set up in our room to watch over us at dinner, but I don't know if he really approved of everything, he saw with some of the goings on. It's weird what wine will do to our respectable senior behaviour.



All in all, it was great to catch up, not too soon after the big rally in Longford. See you at the next one.

Mike Meyman

Joke;

My wife sent me a selfie picture of herself in a new dress and she asked “does this make my belly look big?”

I sent back a message “Noo” but by phone auto corrected it to “Moo”

Please send help ...

Upcoming rallies for Tasmania.

- New Year’s Eve Rally – A site is being investigated and all details to follow.
- March 2026 – Sheffield. Full details to follow.

Membership

We would like to offer a warm welcome to the following new members having joined since the July 2025 edition of Kermit, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many rallies held across the country.

Trevor	Owens	Thagoona	Qld
Dallas & Debbie	Relf	Fletcher	NSW
Geoffrey & Helen	Howard	Paynesville	Vic
Dave	Robertson	Colo Vale	NSW
Lois	Frearson	Dandford	Tas
Peter	Ross	Pakenham	Vic
David	Briercliffe	Urangan	Qld
Terry	Page	Waikerie	SA

Lea	Morgan	Camira	Qld
David	Bryden	Heathmont	Vic
Wendy	Cheers	Teralba	NSW
Christopher & Carol	Keyworth	Hervey Bay	Qld
Nick	Tandy	Boronia	Vic
Andrei	Doroch	Happy Valley	SA

Please check <https://ulyssesrv.org/index.php/events/> for what rallies you may wish to attend in either your state or another state if you are travelling.

In the last 12 months our membership has increased to 934 members and averaging 3 new members per month. In the last 12 months we also had 210 members (*not including partners*) attend rallies.

Waivers have been talked about on numerous occasions and we still find some members attending events do not have waivers registered with the group and this may be due to several factors;

- Initial waivers signed at Mudgee when they were first introduced were only for that particular event,
- Waivers signed on paper during the transition to online waivers may have been misplaced in the chain in getting them to the membership register,
- Where it may have been forgotten about or overlooked or where someone mistakenly believes they may have already filled the waiver out previously, or
- Where a new member has signed up but has not added their partner on a waiver

In an effort to make sure everyone is compliant coordinators may approach you at rallies or contact you by email if a waiver is not received. I apologise if you do get approached and are offended but we need this in place in order to use this as a tool to ensure everyone takes responsibility and looks after themselves and others as we are an unincorporated Group.

We are not kids and neither do we need to be wrapped in cotton wool as everyone's years of life experience shows testament to "common sense", a term in our litigious society that unfortunately seems to have disappeared.

"I don't want to be sued" or "I don't want to lose my house or everything I have worked for" comments have been thrown about but in reality anybody can be sued and a claim is generally only successful if negligence or intent can be proven.

If you are unsure if you have signed a waiver or not, feel free to drop me an email at membership@ulyssesrv.org and I will be able to tell you if I have received a waiver. Members (*not partners*) that have joined since the beginning of 2023 have already filled out waivers as part of the online registration.

Do we have your current email address? Send me an email at membership@ulyssesrv.org if you are not receiving occasional emails from us. We can check your registered email address and update if required.

I hope that all members stay as healthy and active as can be considering their individual circumstances and hope to see more of you at events.

Vince Toonen

Membership Coordinator.

Victoria

Benalla Rally

We had sunny days, very few showers and even a couple of quite warm days. How lucky were we! So different from what was forecast just prior to the trip.

Our first three nights were spent at the Benalla Tourist Park - 14 vans, with visits from Michael & Ros and Ali (locals who usually join us in their vans). We had a few new couples this time, so much of the time was spent getting to know each other, catching up and generally socialising. Meanwhile the Benalla Festival was in swing so there was plenty to see and do around town.

Happy hour each day sometimes turned into shared meals, followed by cards for some or just chilling for others. Friday night saw a handful of people also doing a Port tasting. They voted on the bottles and came up with first to fifth in order of popularity.

Sunday morning, we all packed up and headed for the tiny town of Katamatite 68km north of Benalla. There we free camped behind the Boosey Creek Tavern where we all enjoyed a great country pub style lunch. Ricky the owner, had come through for us with the promised grass slashing, a group of local singers performing during lunchtime and delicious, hearty meals. Several vans had to leave us following lunch but the rest of us just chilled, enjoying a prolonged happy hour.

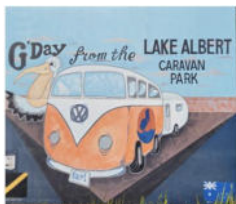
After a cold night we headed for our final destination – the Yarck Recreation Reserve. Whilst some of us visited the local cafes and did a little Christmas shopping at Dindi - aromatherapy & gift store, David started the big cook up for our final dinner. With salads and desserts contributed by others we all had a good feed and a good final evening. Our raffle raised \$45 which was donated to the RSL Poppy Appeal.

Many thanks to all who attended, the regulars (whom we loved catching up with), the first timers whom we enjoyed getting to know and special mention to first timer Roger who brought his drone, providing us with great ariel views of our camps. Safe travels everyone!



South Australia

SARV Weekend at Meningie



What a fantastic way to finish our year at Meningie. It was great to see how many members turned up to enjoy themselves and to see the sights the Coorong has to offer.

Meningie is situated at the northern end of the Coorong on the Shores of Lake Albert. It combines the charm of a small country town with the stunning beauty of the Coorong and freshwater Lower Lakes Albert and Alexandrina of the River Murray. What a peaceful relaxed place.

Friday was a sunny bright day, so it was a fabulous time to take a walk along the Pelican Path. The bird life was everywhere. The weather started to deteriorate later in the afternoon. It was time to retreat to the camp kitchen, make some tea and get into have a great time chatting and catching up.



Despite the wind and rain, it was a very warm and friendly atmosphere in the camp kitchen. The revelry continued well into the night.



The wind was still blowing the next day but at least the rain had gone. It was great to have caught up with the High-Country Ride from Fleurieu Branch on their way home. The Goolwa to Meningie boat race was on so it provided a great spectacle on the lake.

We gathered at the Meningie Hotel for tea. The meals and service were fabulous.

Thanks to everyone who came and made it such a great weekend. Have a great Christmas and New Year. Looking forward to doing again in 2026

Quorn weekend with the 3 Peninsular Ride



We were invited to join the 3 Peninsular Ride at Quorn. It has been a fabulous event for all of us. Just the trip up there, via Melrose and Wilmington, was spectacular. The pastures of green and gold were all around us. With the late rains

the land was very green. It was great to see how many members had come along to join this event.



We all gathered at the Transcontinental Hotel in the afternoon for drinks and a meal. We filled the pub to excess with both numbers and noise. It was a terrific catch-up and great to hear about the travels everyone had. Some managed to make it to the wee hours of the morning but avoided been kicked out.

We were preparing for the journey to Blinman the next day. The riders and some RV's gathered Saturday morning for the trip to Blinman.



It was a fabulous day for it. Everyone enjoyed the trip, especially seeing so many emus. They were in plague proportions with not a brain between them. Fortunately everyone made the trip with no mishaps.



Some took a ride on the Pichi Richi Explorer. What a fantastic train it is. There is something very special about a steam engine with the sound, the steam and the look of yesterday. The railway line was opened in 1879 and eventually extended to

Alice Springs in 1929.



Quorn has a very picturesque setting with many heritage-listed buildings. It was so amazing just to walk around the town and see the Architecture, not just the beautiful buildings but the houses as

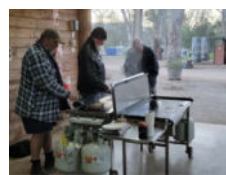
well.



The Mill has been transformed into accommodation. And a very special place was Flinders Gin. This required time to take it all in. Owned and operated by the Trotta family. The setting and the gin is well worth a visit. When our intrepid travellers got back from Blinman we gathered at the caravan park for a BBQ. It has been such a great weekend catching up with so many members from other branches.

After much chatting and laughter, we all settled down for the night preparing for the trip home tomorrow.

Some pictures from the bbq:



Gear Shop

We have a small range of branded items, including banners, stickers etc. To order please complete the form and submit.

- Payment is by direct transfer and you will receive an email confirming your

order with our banking details.

- Please check the email carefully to ensure you have ordered correctly.
- We cannot refund any customised items like shirts after payment.

If you have any issues or queries please call Blip: **Mob. 0423 864 492**

Description	Cost
Men's and Ladies Polo Club Shirts	\$40.00
Men's and Ladies Polo Club Shirt with name	\$48.00
Name Badge	\$22.00
Banner (60cmx30cm)	\$48.00
Spare Wheel Sticker	\$85.00
200 mm Club Sticker	\$10.00
100mm Club Sticker	\$3.50
Arena Team Jackets, logo, no name	\$85.00