Caravan and Motorhome on Tour Magazine Article on HCCCC



CLUB EVENT

HUNTER COASTAL CARAVAN AND CAMPING CLUB



very so often an RV club comes along that embraces all the qualities that draw us to the caravanning and monorthoming lifestyle; warmth, sincerity, smiles and laughter and of course, imparalleled travelling experiences. This month, we bring you a club that has all of these endearing qualities and continually strives to make RVing an unforgettable experience for all - the Hunter Coastal Caravanning and Camping Club.

It was our honour to speak with Susan Sams of the HCCCC to discuss what it is that's drawing so many

travellers to this modest coastal club. Susan first started caravanning in 1988 after she and her bushand Alan purchased a Windsor Sunwagon. This proved to be an invaluable source of affordable holidays for the whole family. After Alan retired, the pair moved to the quiet shores of Coffs Harbour, where they came across the Hunter Coastal Caravan and Camping Club.

"We didn't want the van to waste away on the front lawn," says Susan. So we looked around for a while to see if we could find some like-minded nomads. That's when we met some other members of the club."

Initially, the club was a small group of travellers who were looking for a caravan club to join The membership quotas of all nearby clubs were filled, so they took matters into their own hands and banded together in 2002 to form the HCCCC. The rest, as they say, is history.

Today the club boasts a fine fleet of 25 vans. When it comes to adventures

on the road, it looks upon itself as an equal-opportunity club: there are non restrictions on the way members travel or camp. Susan explains: "There are no rules about the age or work statui of members. We welcome families with children; they are thoroughly encouraged to join in and participate in club activities. They can travel in whatever rig they like - members are free to choose tents, swags, campers, caravans, motorhomes or fifthwheelers - essentially, anything that meets their own requirements.

Some previously enrolled families have relocated and stepped away from club life, but the HCCCC continues to hold its arms wide open



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OUR EMPHASIS IS ON HAVING FUN AND ENJOYING THE LIFESTYLE

Sausage Sizzle on Saturday night after a very long and eventful day

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to any family membership and always makes sure that any grandchildren that attend will also enjoy activities. Presently we don't have any members with children," Susan says, "but during the holidays we always make the lids travelling with us feel special by having Santa or the Easter bunny visit and giving them a small gift!"

The ongoing theme at HCCCC events is simple: good food and great times! "At most rallies we organise a grand dinner for all," says Susan. "It can range from a camp cooking imorgasbord to a simple hamburger aght." In April, the club enjoyed a walking tour of Gulgong where members had to find hidden items and solve the puzzle along the route of their pub crawl – good thing it was a 'walking' tour!

Happy hour the following evening twe everyone don their bonnets for that parade, and on Sunday evening they prepared a glorious baked dinner follow by a unique version of rabbit taces. This involved windup bunnies

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Men's business!

Sunday evening communal baked dinner

racing down the dining room table: an activity that resulted in such roars of laughter the attendees decided it was necessary to 'breathalyse' the 'jockeys'in

While these upbeat, friendly affairs are nothing out of the ordinary for the HCCCC, Susan has a stand-out memory that we think really showcases the heart of this fantastic club. "On our 40th wedding anniversary we got a big surprise," says Susan. "The members organised a 'renewal of vows' ceremony in the park at Boggabri where we were staying for the Drover's Camp Fire. They even had a veil and bouquet for me, and a jacket and tie for hubby. One





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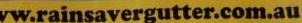
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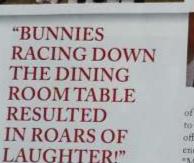




Sunday morning street breakfast

Gulgong. These excursions were ful Gulgong troving rally to Barrading lowed by a Boggabri for the Drower Pillaga and Way saw the club tour Camp File dial, June was spent of the Manuard Showground, and in J the Aberdeen Highland games wrate a highlight. If you love adventure, the a highlight has plenty more planned o the rest of the year and they would love to hear from anyone thinking of joining them!





member, Alan, came as the celebrant, resplendent in his white gown and cap! We went on to a local cafe that had opened especially for us that night for dinner. This will be one of my fondest memories ever!"

You won't be surprised to hear that the HCCCC's happy hours are always a hoot with "Lots of laughter, telling



of tales and jokes and just nattering to each other", HCCCC events go off without a hitch largely due to the energy and enthusiasm of all involved. "Members often come up with ideas for things to do on the weekends away," Susan tells us. "Sometimes they are just quiet walks, or fishing, but everyone lends a hand with communal dinners, with everyone trying as hard as possible."

So far this year the club has visited Fort Scratchley, Clarence Town, the State Rally in Bathurst, the Tractor

Pull in Dungog, and spent Easter in

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We'll let Susan have the final word on what makes the Hunter Coastal Caravan and Camping Club so special. "Everyone in our club gets along so well; we all enjoy the time spent together in the great outdoors," she says. "And as for guests ... people who have not travelled with us before are always made extremely welcome. We do lots of fun things and try to not break the bank!"

Thanks to Susan and the wonderful team at the Hunter Coastal Caravan and Camping Club for reaching out to us. Happy Travelling!

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