Traralgon Caravan & Cabin Trip – October 2026

Another twenty-eight members arrived at the chosen Big4 Traralgon Park Lane Caravan Park over the course of Tuesday afternoon, to join two early starters, Phil & Sue.

The lovely weather went quickly downhill as a heavy rain shower appeared out of nowhere. It was Ok as the park has an excellent 'function' room that seated all of us and more. Your organiser got wet as he was confirming the dinner booking at the Italian/Australian Club for Wednesday.

By the time most of us were having our first drink the rain had gone and the sun reappeared. The brightly (Monopoly-Board) coloured cabins stood out.



Figure 1 - Bright Cabins

Chris welcomed everyone particularly *first timers* Irene, Fred, Janice and Cheryl. Longer-time caravan-trip members made them welcome.

> *Chris reminded everyone that nineteen months ago we visited Port Fairy. The members who were booked on that trip included names like Rod Campbell-Fraser, John Shewan, Robert Wilson and David Wright. We miss them but we are going to remember and talk about them.*



Figure 2 - Chris Welcoming Members to Traralgon in the Function Room

We will also miss late withdrawals Kaye, Neville, Jan, Stuart, Joy and Mitch.

A pleasant time was had by all over happy hour(s), dinner. Fun, fellowship and friendship was firmly in place.



Figure 3 - Fun, Fellowship and Friendship in Full Swing

Wednesday started with a magnificent sunrise, followed by a communal breakfast attended by around half the members in town.



Figure 4 - Sunrise at 6:15 am over the caravan park.



Figure 5 – Above & Below - Members Enjoying a Sunny Start to the day.



Members went in all directions. Coffee was had in many places. The Morwell Centenary Rose Garden was impressive. So was the Gippsland Heritage Walk, Heyfield Café 3568, Camp Crusty at Glenmaggie, the Latrobe Valley Visitor Information Centre, the train at Walhalla, lunch at the Erica Hotel, Thompson Dam and numerous other locations.



Figure 6 - History & Beauty in Traralgon

Some members rekindled memories of their youth and made new friends.



Figure 7 - Left: Phil, Bruce, Crippsy and Fond Memories *Right: Phil meets a local*

Later the pool and spa were utilised. By 5pm the thunderstorms, lightening and heavy rain had returned – even heavier than yesterday.

We all headed off to the 'Italian/Australian Club' for dinner. The rain had eased as we hurried from car to venue. Everyone seemed to enjoy their dinner although Marino struggled to find any Italians.



Figure 8 – Above & Below - Dinner at the Italian/Australian Club



After dinner, back at camp, Sue and Phil lead a small group in a game of 'Five Crowns. Sue won easily.

Thursday started with fog to add to the numerous weather patterns that we had experienced so far.

Again members headed in all directions. Some headed to Tarra-Bulga National Park and enjoyed two superb rain-forest walks – one with a suspension bridge

and one featured Cyathea Falls. A snack lunch was scored at a local café at Balook, which was sort of in the middle of nowhere.



Figure 9 - Members at Tarra-Bulga NP
[Left: Cyathea Falls. Right: Suspension Bridge]

The temperature was around 30 degrees.

Happy hour was busy and enjoyable as was the BBQ dinner. A couple of the members took over where some kids had been colouring-in earlier in the afternoon. No one bothered to check their work or sharpen their pencils



Figure 10 - Members concentrating
[The wine glass contained soda water]



Figure 11 - Members at Happy Hour listening to Fred thank Chris for organising the Traralgon trip.

'Five Crowns' was again the feature game after dinner.

Friday started warm and again moved to around 30 degrees. Four members had commitments at home and headed home to Melbourne.

Six golfers (David Cripps, Marino, Bruce Ellis, Don, John Stevens and Chris) enjoyed the excellent conditions and the superb Morwell golf course. Tom Spiden came along for the ride and to impart his wisdom. Marino won on 19 points with John and Chris runners-up on 16 points. Don and Marino collected the two nearest-the-pin prizes. All enjoyed the views.



Figure 12 - Members at Morwell Golf Club

A number of the ladies took advantage of golfing husbands being absent to have a good chat. Other members went different directions. Members were seen eating ice-cream.

Lunch at the Noojee Hotel and a view of the nearby trestle bridge were added to the list today.



Figure 13 - Trestle Bridge near Noojee

There was no rain today and it was still around 30 degrees as 24 members headed to the Traralgon Hotel for dinner. Another excellent night was had by all. Chris presented the golf prizes with all participants getting at least one *David Wright* memorial ball.



Figure 14 - Above & below - Members at the Traralgon Hotel





Bed seemed to be the preference over cards and *fellowship* (but maybe your scribe did not get invited to any 'after' parties).

Saturday started overcast with light rain. It was 18 degrees as the BBQ was lit for breakfast. Around ten members headed home leaving a very small group at the communal breakfast.

After breakfast members again went in various directions. A number visited the Farmers Market and some checked out the stained-glass windows in St Michael's Catholic Church.



Figure 15 - Fred cooking Breakfast.



Figure 16 - Traralgon Farmers Market

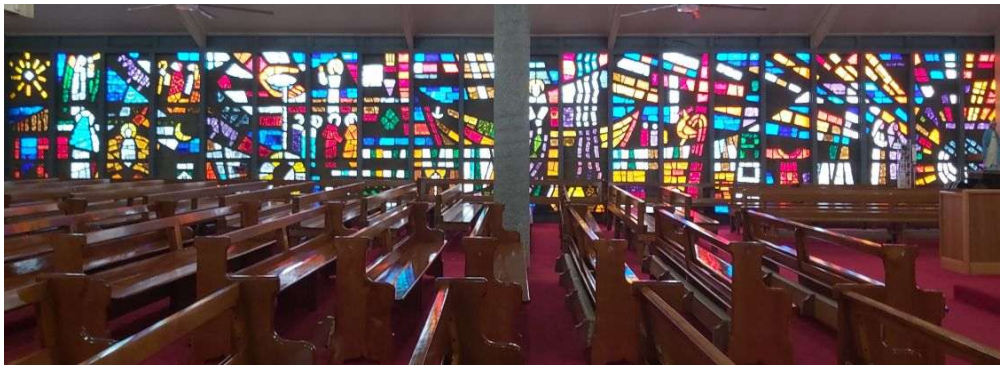


Figure 17 - St Michael's Church

More members rode the Walhalla train, although the start was delayed by faulty brakes. Stale muffins were not enjoyed.



Figure 18 - Loco for the Walhalla Train & Two Members at the Train Destination

The rain was frequent enough to be annoying, but we managed.

However, the rain did not dampen the spirits of locals who enjoyed the train ride around the caravan park. I am not sure which members had a ride..... (My lips are sealed).



Figure 19 - Train in the Caravan Park

The Traralgon trip effectively finished over Saturday dinner in the camp kitchen with ten members in attendance. Other members dined elsewhere and a few returned to join in later.

At the camp kitchen, popular dinner choices were hamburgers although pizza and marinated chicken were enjoyed. Dessert of pancakes, strawberries and ice-cream was a pleasant but chaotic way to end. The chaos came from the faulty BBQ plates which meant that Chris had many trips between the frypan on the stove and the on/off BBQ outside.

Sunday. Another trip was done and dusted and it was time to return home to a very wet Melbourne.

> *The names of our missing friends were often mentioned. We missed them all. We also missed the members on the 'sick' list and we wish them a speedy recovery.*

Bring on Bendigo in March.....

Chris Kelly
Organiser