Caravan and Camping trip to Swan Hill

Swan Hill Monday 5th October to Friday 9th October

On Monday 15 members made their way to Swan Hill. Everyone got there safe and sound even though some took different routes, but the main topic when we all gathered for "Happy Hour " was the dreadful condition of the roads. We did see a truck with a sign that said "Victoria the pothole capital of Australia "which we thought was rather appropriate.

On Tuesday we all decided to car pool for our trip to "The Spanner Man Garden Sculptures in Boort. We left at 9 am and arrived at 10.15am. While we were enjoying morning tea Andrew welcomed us and spoke about his father John. John was the creator of the entire collection of sculptures made completely out of spanners. After watching a short video we were then able to wander around the garden and inspect the amazing collection of sculptures. John worked from his wheel chair as he had suffered polio as a child. He also restored farm machinery which can be seen as you drive onto the property. There were also old cars, John Deer tractors and in his workshop there were oh so many spanners of all sizes. Sadly John passed away in April 2021, but he certainly left a wonderful legacy behind. Andrew his son is also into restoration and he is maintaining the property for tourism. Well worth a visit. After leaving there we headed to Lake Boga Hotel for lunch. After lunch we visited the Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum, home of the Catalina sea planes. Lake Boga was an integral part of the allied defence during World War 2,with a facility that helped keep Australia safe. The first Catalina repaired at Lake Boga was number A24-17, which carried a crew of four, plus 12 personnel posting from Rathmines. After a full day we headed back to the caravan park to prepare for "Happy Hour".

Wednesday morning we all headed to the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement, first stop was for a coffee break, then we spent a lot of the day wandering around, discussing how life was in the past. Most people enjoyed a ride in an original 1920s Dodge vintage car. Some also enjoyed a ride in a horse drawn carriage pulled by a beautiful Clydesdale. In the evening some members walked while others drove as we made our way back to the Pioneer settlement for a spectacular lazer light show which was pretty amazing telling and showing us the history of the Legends of the Mallee.

Thursday morning was free time, some went into town, others went back for another look around the settlement and some went over to NSW. After lunch we all came back to the Settlement for a relaxing river cruise on the old Pyap Paddle steamer which is 130 years old. The Pyap was built as a barge and launched in 1896 its maiden voyage as a paddle steamer was in 1897. Dine out on Thursday night was at a Chinese restaurant in Swan Hill. We were very fortunate the caravan park was within walking distance of the Pioneer settlement and the city centre.. All in all a very enjoyable week away, thank you to all the members who supported this holiday