



The "12 Days of Christmas" cast in full swing

REPORT ON RIVERTON XMAS RALLY 02/12/2021- 06/12/2021 ***REPORTER TREVOR PORTER***

Wednesday

Most members decided to get their earlier so they could set up relax and have a nice early Happy Hour together. One thing was noticeable on arrival that the welcome from the managers was totally missing. Come to think of it the managers were missing as well! Eventually we raised one so that we could pay our bill and get set up. Arrived on site which was dustier than we've had before as well so we were missing Carolyn and her professional style as well. So, things can only improve from here.

Happy hour arrived and the drinks and nibbles came out and so the rally was underway -unofficially. Not surprisingly everyone could not be bothered getting dinner ready so off to the pub we all go and as usual the meal and company was really good.

Thursday

So, the Xmas rally was officially underway and most of the rest were arriving and setting up. A few more Xmas light were put out and most vans looked really well set up. A few members decided to head out for lunch to the Clare Valley wineries and came back with good reports.

As soon as you know it Happy Hour was on again in the Camp Kitchen with the added bonus of utilizing the BBQ area for the evening meal.

Friday

Everyone lined up to enjoy the Presidents Pancake Breakfast in the hall. It was very tasty with Strawberry and Apricot Jam plus ample cream and maple syrup. A very good start for the day.

The last couple of members rolled in to complete the rally compliment including Brenda and Julian who, against all odds, finally made it to their first rally in their new caravan – unfortunately “decorated” with some heavy hail which most unfortunately has affected a few other members as well. Best of luck with insurance claims guys and welcome to the Club, Brenda and Julian!

A few of the hard workers got together in the hall to set up the internal decorations plus plan the skits and entertainment for the big day tomorrow. Great work.

Before you knew it Happy Hour was on in the hall with great Christmas music expertly supplied and delivered by Alan Savill. Great night was had by all and with a slight break for the evening meal, it was on again later that night. I happened to spy a certain club lady going around to all members' caravans looking at the very decorated ones. Verry interesting. No doubt we will hear more tomorrow!!!

Saturday

The big day has finally arrived. Time to decorate the Christmas Tree and in the Hall and also to set up and decorate the tables, which seemed to be done in quick time but it also looked great.

We had a chance to relax and chit chat before the rostered on Cooks and Helpers got stuck into the preparations from 2pm. All the air fryers and other equipment was lined up with all the food for preparation and cooking so it was all go in the kitchen. Everyone started to congregate at around 5.30 bringing in all the plates, glasses drinks and still more table decorations.

We had our usual Christmas welcome by our President and a few wise words of grace by John Grovermann and we were set to go. The cooks and servers were all supremely organised with members well behaved and prepared to lone up in an orderly fashion so the meal could be served quickly and efficiently. Ample salads were on hand together with the roast veggies and the usual pork and turkey roasts and a great ham or two. I have to say that the meal was really superb , so many thanks to the cooks, servers, helpers and everyone involved to make it truly memorable occasion.

Also many thanks to our great Sponsor Gully Winds wine for their donation of wine to the Dinner and also the Raffle.

No sooner was the meal over but the entertainment commenced with some entertaining skits. Who can forget Grovies baby tantrums and his "parents" still managing to laugh and smile!! Beats me how Grovey got past his childhood still intact!!!!

Other highlights were some enjoyable songs from the Den and Chris Duo on piano and guitar respectively. Later, Chris T and Chris D joined up on their ukuleles for some singalong numbers and were joined by club members. The 12 Days of Christmas was a popular skit with a unique Aussie flavour. Unfortunately, the Karaoke segment was not well supported but we thank Brenton Baker for getting up and giving us his song, which went over very well. Allan continued with his great songs and music and soon it was time for the star of the show being Father Christmas, who this year seemed to be sprightlier than ever. Maybe not as tall, but the same shape as Father Xmas but our Girls seemed happy with the reinvigorated one with all sitting on his dodgy 'carnival knee' and getting their well-earned Kris Kringle.

So the Raffle was drawn and won with many prizes, about 20 or so prizes, so most members were rewarded for their investment.

The last highlight was the naming of the winner of the Stirrers Spoon and this year the worthy inner was John Grovermann. Very well deserved too.

Also the winner of the best dressed Caravan was then announced and the winners are..... the Grovies. So congratulations on your hard work Marilyn!!

So the music continued on and late at night it eventually wound down and everyone retired for the night after a really good Celebration Day. Thanks again to everyone involved in this success.

Merry Christmas to all members and Safe Travels in the New Year.

Trevor



The table set & ready for Christmas dinner



Brenda snuggled up to Santa a little too friendly !!