

“THE BEACH PORT ADVENTURE”

BY GRAHAM D BROWN APM LEM

SUNDAY - for most became the travel day to the Beach Port Rally. By late p.m. there were a number of members happy to relax and enjoy an early happy hour.

MONDAY- became the day for the knitting brigade as many sat around with their needles and wool clashing in tune with the sound of boisterous chatting, while the men folk looking on from a distance with admiration that one could do so many tasks at the same time. The temperature suddenly changed when the idea of attending the local bakery to nourish the hard workers became a reality, but are we to walk or drive became a matter of discussion. I am pleased to report the vote went to walk to the Bakery for a delicious pie, but disappointed when the purchase included a bun.

In the afternoon two members, renowned for their hunting skills, march off loaded with rods and buckets dressed in the traditional overalls (the fashion for the modern-day chap) headed for the local jetty. Some two hour later they returned with what is commonly referred to as “What Paddy Shot At”. All agreed that the right decision had been made by our Co-Ordinator to organise the purchase of fish and chips at the local shop for the fish meal.

At Happy Hour we were honoured to welcome our dear friends D’Arcy and Yvonne to the Rally, D’Arcy was anxious to demonstrate his driving skills with his scooter. We then enjoyed what was described as an extended Happy Hour with “Substantial nibbles” for a grazing happy hour meal. All left satisfied ready to face the challenges ahead.

TUESDAY - was recorded as the day we got “Stuck in the Sand” with one team demonstrating the art of getting stuck in the sand and threw out the challenge to all the four-wheel drive enthusiast to get them out! The first contestant raced to their aid but was disqualified when he became stuck in the sand. With the majority of the Club on hand it took the experienced four-wheel driver JG to achieve a positive result. Well, done JG. The next part of the day was occupied by RV cleaning and pumping up tyres. At Happy hour we welcomed D’Arcy’s sister and brother in-law who were sharing the penthouse with the Cocks. At 6 p.m. came the delivery of the fishing and chips. The order for 35 parcels of fish and chips I suspect may have been a record for the local shop and motivated the proprietor to open up especially for our needs. All enjoyed the meal and return to their van’s well fed and happy chappies.

WEDNESDAY - all members were about early preparing their chariots for the Adventure Tour ensuring that they had sufficient supplies and equipment for the trip. At 10.30 a.m. the leader left the camp but not all went to plan and we had to regroup so that the 10-vehicle entourage was able to negotiate the planned venture together. The first stop was at “Woakwine Cutting”. In 1957 two men commenced to excavate a pass through the sloping hills to allow water to flow from the low-lying paddocks to the sea. It took 3 years with the use of a D7 Tractor to complete the task. It was described as an outstanding example of initiative by the two local men to achieve a positive result.

The next stop was at “Nora Creina”, a picturesque seaside village occupied by holiday homes, surrounded by rugged coast line. The beach was named after the sailing ketch” Nora Creina” that sank in 1859 against the rugged cliffs. It was amazing the number of naturalists that were identified within the Club. I lost count of the number that ventured into the sand hills obviously looking for rare species!! Others said that were looking for a wee break. Then we sat on the beach and had what is best described as a Bunning’s sausage sizzle making sure the onions were on the bottom. Then individually made our way back to camp. That night we were entertained by five members who participated in the “Who Are You” when they told us of their life history. Most interesting and it is good to learn more about our members.

THURSDAY - REMEMBRANCE DAY the 11th hour of the 11th month. Cathy and Jacquie had knitted poppies for us to wear for the day. With the flag at half-mast, we gathered around the flag pole and Geoff B gave us a moving monologue on the “Battle of the Fromelles” that took place in 1916 in Northern France, where up to 2,000 Australian soldiers were killed in one day and has been recorded as one of the most Tragic Event in Australia’s History. A minutes silence and then Geoff recited the Ode. Cathy read a poem relating the to the significance of the Poppy and Jacquie read a poem relating to the Soldiers Grave. Allan organized appropriate music for the ceremony and played the Last Post. Full credit to the Committee for ensuring that we participated in Remembrance Day in such a memorable manner for this important event. We then ventured out of the winter conditions into the Camp kitchen where we enjoyed a join barbecue with shared salads.

Many thanks for John and Marilyn G for organising the Beach Port Rally that had gaiety and well-planned activities.

Congratulations to all the members for your participation in these activities and making the Beachport Venture a memorable Rally.



“Who Am I?” speakers gave us interesting snippets into their lives – Len, John, Bev, Ken and Grant



“The Carefree Gang” including Molly, Maggie, Mischka and Benny enjoyed our 4WD tagalong



Remembrance Day Service – Geoff led the service, Cathy & Jacquie read poems, Mal lowered/raised the flag, Allan played the Last Post