



## **ROYAL FLAIR NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020**

Welcome to our April and Easter newsletter. Here it is Easter and we are all confined to barracks so to speak with borders closed and our Royal Flair caravans at a standstill at home. But, in the great Aussie tradition, we are making the best of it, keeping a sense of humour and getting on with life the best we can.

Due to current restrictions set down by both federal and state governments many businesses have been forced to either lay off staff or close. This recently included Royal Flair Caravans. Bill Deralas has advised that Royal Flair Caravans is closed until May 4<sup>th</sup>, and obviously you will have some questions.

### **WHY DID ROYAL FLAIR HAVE TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE?**

When building caravans you need many parts. Unfortunately several suppliers of parts to Royal Flair closed ahead, and without much needed parts Bill and staff found it hard to continue builds. Some suppliers have indicated early return dates, and, with some parts in stock Royal Flair will be able to continue builds after 4<sup>th</sup> May. While the factory is closed Bill and staff are carrying out additions and renovations moving towards improvements in production when it resumes.

### **I HAVE A VAN ON ORDER. WILL THE CLOSURE AFFECT DELIVERY?**

At the time of writing this newsletter Royal Flair advises only minor delays of a few weeks. Your dealer should be keeping you up to date at all times on this.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE A WARRANTY CLAIM?**

Because you are not allowed on the road it will be impossible to transport your van to a repairer. If you are staying in the one place until you are allowed to move on again and the problem is major or serious, please message me on facebook or email me at [john\\_westbury@bigpond.com](mailto:john_westbury@bigpond.com) . I have arranged with Bill who I have regular contact with that I will contact him and we will try and see what can be done to help. In the meantime please keep a watch on our facebook page for any further information.

### **NAGAMBIE 2020 GET TOGETHER:**

Some have asked will our annual get together go ahead? At this time it is hard to tell, but, please do not pull out now if you have already registered. It is a matter of wait and see what happens with restrictions and when life will start returning to normal. I have arranged with Bill and Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park that we will hold a meeting in September to consider options. One option is that if we can't get together in October then we look at a possible date around end March or Early April 2021, and this will also depend on dates caravan shows are on as Royal Flair have commitments to these. Again, please keep an eye on our facebook page for details, and, please bear with me as it is not easy arranging the get together.

What else is happening in Royal Flair land? One of our members, Geoff Newby Butt, suggested that perhaps we make members aware of some products available that would be most suited to their vans and make travelling life more comfortable. Good idea, so Geoff has contributed the first one. We should remind you that you should not modify your van from its original production otherwise a warranty claim could become a problem. The products we are looking for a basic add ons so, if you have one please message me and we can discuss it.

We currently have 479 members on our facebook page plus another 9 who don't use social media but receive our newsletters. A big Thank you to Col Ongley who keeps stats for us so we know how many live in each State. Also, I have been very busy with home commitments, grandkids, and outdoor duties as directed by my wife. I also had a minor bout of illness (no, not the virus) and this tends to put a bit of extra load on me. With that in mind I asked Geoff Newby-Butt if he would assist me as an Admin on our facebook page and he has agreed, so, a big THANK YOU Geoff.

I'm pleased to see Victoria well and truly in the lead. Royal Flair sales have been good and recently 13 were made in Victoria which gave us more members. It was also interesting to note that one purchaser was from Tasmania and another from Darwin.

### **KUI PARKS UPDATE:**

Kui Parks, one of our sponsors, has updated their web site to help you find the activity you are looking for when staying at one of their many parks Australia wide. We have placed this on our facebook page so please check it out. As example if you are staying at a particular Kui Park and want to go to lawn bowls, fossick or other things, click the item and it will show where it is. The web site is [www.kuiparks.com.au](http://www.kuiparks.com.au) . Many thanks to Bert van Spronsen and Kui Parks for this.

### **PRODUCT REVIEW FROM GEOFF NEWBY-BUTT:**

**Air Annexes - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.**

After carrying our traditional Annex for years and only putting up 3 times in 4 years we thought why ?. We then saw an Air Annex at Nagambie on another caravan.

Anyway, after much research we purchased the one that suited us and after initial frustration when putting it up we now have it down to a 10 minute job. Ours is a "ikampa" and the biggest and heaviest they make but worth every effort once in place. How easy it goes up is reliant on how you folded and packed it away. Air Annexes are much brighter inside and are a complete unit including roof, so most times no need to use the awning although in hot conditions we put the awning out to help with insulating the annex. There is also a Marquee look and feel and has options with zip out panels, plus the inside has ready installed tags to string lights on or whatever suits

.  
So, how does it work?, First a new Sail Track has to be fitted to the van and ours had to be quite high to clear vents ,lights etc. Then the top[the roof] of the annex slides into the track and then just needs to be pumped up and secured around the bottom. It only needs about 8 psi so pumps up quickly and with little effort. I use the bolt anchors from Bunnings that go in with a battery drill and attachment.

In the wind we always felt uncomfortable with the awning and generally raced outside and put it up. We haven't felt the need once to put the Air annex down, it is flexible and has no rigid metal poles, just air filled tubes which can be seen in the pictures. It just seems to flex with the wind and sit tight.

I don't, believe these are for everybody and I know some people have got Awnings and Annexes down pat but these are a great alternative.

Interestingly Dometic have taken over distribution of ikampa in Australia and they obviously see a future for this European Annex style so we'll see more features options and accessories.





**Ok folks, that's it from me until our May newsletter when we hope things will be brighter and our living standards will improve. Please do not forget to support our sponsors, Caltex Australia, BMPRO, Award RV Superstore, Mitchelton Wines, Emergency ID and Kui Parks.**

**As for me; I am planning my trip tonight from the lounge room to the bedroom. Cheers!**

