

ROYAL FLAIR NEWSLETTER - 2020



G'Day Royal Flarians and welcome to our March 2021 newsletter.

Firstly, an update from Bill Deralas on progress of the new Royal Flair factory.

"With the roof fitted, the new Royal Flair factory construction is roaring along. Erection of the outer frame has been completed and attention has switched to the inside, where multiple trenches are being dug for plumbing and electrics. On a recent expedition to the site, we were again blown away by the sheer scale of the factory and the exciting opportunities it will present for future caravan innovation. The opening of the new factory will also coincide with a very special milestone, as Royal Flair celebrate their 30th year anniversary."

The new factory to date looks fantastic and we are sure when completed it will stand out amongst all others with a great Royal Flair team.

I can also tell you that word on the grapevine is they may be working on an exciting new concept model to celebrate the occasion when the new factory opens.

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NEW SOUTH WALES FLOODS:

A couple of members have asked if there is anything we can do to help those affected by the floods in New South Wales. At present there is nothing we can do, but, when things settle maybe we could consider a Royal Flair group going into the area to help rebuild or help in some other way. There are a couple of caravan parks affected and with Easter coming on they will be affected, and, with Covid and other factors it is the last thing they needed. I will keep everyone posted, but if you are interested please message me.

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WHO REMEMBERS MARY?

A few years ago at one of our get togethers at Nagambie Mary and her husband Des joined us and like all of us had a great time. Recently, two of our members, Ron and Di Sinclair came across Mary and noticed a Royal Flair caravan. This is how Ron writes about a great lady.

“We were camped in Cootamundra, NSW and just heading out for a walk when we noticed a lady camped nearby in a Royal Flair caravan. We always chat to fellow Royal Flairians if we get the chance, so we said hello and asked her if she was happy with her van. She was very happy but it turns out there’s much more to the story than that.

Mary and her husband Des bought the Royal Flair eleven years ago in Adelaide and they towed it with a 1973 Chrysler 2-door Coupe that was fitted with a 318 cu in V8! They set off on their adventure and did over 50,000 kms trouble free caravanning over about nine years.

I’m writing this on the 9th March 2021, and that’s important to the story because it was two years ago today that Des died. Mary was heartbroken and as they had no children she was left alone in a different state with the Chrysler and the Royal Flair. The date is also relevant because while we were chatting to Mary she also mentioned that her brother was being cremated TODAY and she was unable to get there.

By now we were getting emotional and so was Mary, so we steered the conversation back to the caravan. Mary told us that she’d definitely buy another Royal Flair if she ever had the chance because they were so well built, but that was very unlikely. She’d had to sell the fabulous old Chrysler Coupe when Des died and now she doesn’t even have a licence. While we were chatting she was getting the battery checked in the van and it turns out it was the original battery. She told us that the last time they’d used the battery when free-camping was about three years ago, so now she’s going to get a new one. She did say that she might need to get a ‘new sticker’ on the front of the van as the old one is peeling off, so I told her I’d look into that for her.

Mary has now made her home in her much-loved Royal Flair at Cootamundra Caravan Park and she said she feels “very lucky” to live in such a comfortable van in such a lovely and friendly town. She was very pleased to tell us that the park owners let her do some cleaning so she could keep busy, and for that she is grateful. We took Mary’s picture with the van and she showed us a few photos of the van and car when they first bought it. What a great glimpse back into the past.

By now we could see Mary was becoming even more upset so we thanked her for sharing her story and went back to our van. Di and I were very moved by meeting this lovely lady and Di suggested that we buy her some flowers to brighten her day. We went straight out and bought a bunch of flowers and Di gave them to Mary with a lovely hug. Sometimes you just meet the loveliest people who take what life throws at them and still feel ‘lucky’”. Below are some photos of Mary and her beloved Royal Flair caravan.



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Many thanks Ron and Di for this article and your kindness to Mary. If anyone travels near Cootamundra drop in for a chat with Mary. She is still a member of our club.

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NEW HOME CARAVANS:

OK, don't worry, I haven't gone strange and about to talk about another caravan company, but I am going to anyway. Many years ago a caravan manufacturer, New Home Caravans set up business in Melbourne, and they produced great caravans. I only found about this recently when one of our new members told me he and his wife had purchased a second hand one. After some research and with the help of Rick and Julieanne Smolenaars who purchased this van, it all came to light that Bill Deralas's father Peter who passed away owned the company and made them.

Some years later the company became Royal Flair Caravans, and Bill's father worked alongside him manufacturing some great models as we know them today. Rick and Julieanne are working on the van to restore it and Bill is trying to find out if he can get the original stickers reproduced to go on it together with a Royal Flair sticker. Unfortunately the van won't be at our get together at Nagambie this but should be in 2022. When it is finished being restored we will have some photos of it, but, meantime I have attached some of the van as it is now.

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NEW-HOME



MANUFACTURERS OF FINE CARAVANS SINCE 1973

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

AVAILABLE FROM:

LEN KING CARAVANS

Caravan Showgrounds,
Broadmeadows.

PACIFIC CARAVANS

R.V. Exhibition City, Croydon,
Ph: 725 8793

KEN BLAKE CARAVANS

408 Canterbury Rd,
Surrey Hills, Vic,
Ph: 830 5759

NORTHLAND CARAVANS

328 Main North Road,
Blair Athol 5084 S.A.
Ph: 44 1335

LEISURETIME CARAVANS

423 Bakerm Rd,
Sunshine, Vic,
Ph: 311 1799

**ANDREW COX'S
CARAVANS**

30 Main Road, Wyvenhoe, Burnie,
Tasmania, Ph: 31 5207.



2 VIMY STREET, RESERVOIR, 3073.

MELBOURNE, VIC. PHONE: 460 5315.





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CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

Firstly, if you receive any messages from me and you are concerned they are not from me please email me straight away.

At present we have over 600 members on our facebook page and another 10 on emails who do not use facebook. We take great care of our members and set out to ensure their privacy is kept at all times. I received a complaint recently from a member who complained that we allow people to join who have not had their new van delivered at the time of joining. They complained that someone had sent them a message saying they could not join until they actually had their van delivered. This is NOT the case and we do not use such a message in that regard. This is how we work it.

If someone asks to join they are sent a robot message asking them to message us a photo of their royal flair van hitched to their tow vehicle. They are also advised that if they do not have one, but have ordered one, to let us know who the dealer was. When they do, our office records are checked and if they have purchased a new van then they are allowed to join the club. We believe that is the fair thing to do and some have recently put photos up on our page of their new van and their first travels. We hope that clears the matter up!

NAGAMBIE GET TOGETHER 2021:

Lots of exciting news folks. Our annual get together at Nagambie Lakes leisure Park is on April 16th, 17th & 18th and will be our biggest ever. We have now been advised we will have use of the conference room meaning our Saturday night fancy dress, dinner and some great entertainment will be on. I can advise we will have some special additional prizes for auctions etc so bring your credit cards and support Research For Brain Cancer. We will keep you up to date via our facebook page and if I can get time might manage a special newsletter on it.

DEPOSITS:

Deposits will now be due on Monday 10th April. Please phone the park on (03) 5794 2373 and speak with Fiona who will be looking after everyone on arrival.

LATE ARRIVALS:

If you are arriving late please message me and I will arrange a code for you to get in to your site. Please do not forget to go to reception next morning to get your new code and to pay your balance.

Finally, I will need some help with a few little jobs, such as setting up tables and putting them away again on the Sunday morning. Also some help needed packing show bags as everyone will receive one as usual.

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We will have a programme of events which everyone will receive. In it is the time for our annual get together photo. Please make sure you are there as a couple missed out last time. The photo will then replace our current cover photo on facebook.

This is our fifth annual event and while we have had a few cancellations, mainly due to ill health and a couple of vans sold it will be our biggest ever with just on 50 vans as we send this newsletter out.

Meanwhile, stay safe, and, if you are on the road, safe travels. Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Cheers!

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