



## ROYAL FLAIR NEWSLETTER – MAY 2020



G'Day everyone and welcome to our May newsletter. Here in Victoria it's cold and at 11am on the Mornington Peninsula it is just 9C as I write this. Plenty of snow at Hotham and other areas as well. Because of the dreaded virus we are all basically stranded in lockdown and we are envious of those even in lockdown who are enjoying warmer areas. In Victoria Premier Andrews announced on 11 May that caravanning / camping is still not allowed but you can go fishing. Maybe come June he might allow it....we hope!

Firstly, three items with good news. Royal Flair Caravans is now officially listed as an “Australian Made” product and certified as such. Royal Flair vans have always been made in Australia, but the certification process takes time. So, congratulations to Bill Deralas and family on this great piece of news. Secondly the Royal Flair Piazza won the best Aussie van in its category in Caravan World competition at Inverloch where judging took place late last year. My wife and I were honoured to be asked by Bill to take the van to Inverloch and take part. Thirdly, we have a new sponsor, HAYMAN REESE who we welcome aboard. Hayman Reese have kindly donated a magnificent item which will be auctioned at our get together at Nagambie in October if we can hopefully all get together. Please remember Hayman Reese products when searching out items for your van

Royal Flair closed for a short time to give staff a break, but also for renovations to the factory to take place to allow for increased production when they resume. This has now been completed and Bill says the factory is now “state of the art” which will also mean improvements in build and production. Royal Flair vans are certainly hitting the market and at a recent Victorian show 13 were sold.

**Royal Flair office will reopen on 13<sup>th</sup> May from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday only for the time being.**

Our great mate Col Ongley has updated the member stats and I am pleased to report Victoria is in the lead with 212 followed by NSW with 169. Queensland has 68, Tasmania 38, W.A. 33, S.A. 16, and NT and ACT 6 each. Also, well done Tasmania with your recent get together, it looked great! This total figure will look different than what is shown on our facebook page because some members do not use or have facebook.

**NAGAMBIE 2020:** October is a long way off but already we have 50 vans registered for a fun filled and enjoyable weekend at Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park. At the time of writing this the park has allocated another five spots so, if you would like to come please register with me asap. Some of you have asked will it still go ahead due to the virus and border lockouts. My guess at the time of writing this is that we will have an all clear to proceed, but I have arranged a meeting in second week of September with Royal Flair and Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park.

If for some reason we can't make it in October there is a thought we might look at March 2021, but this is only a thought. We have a lot planned for it with a few surprises, so, if you have not registered please either email or message me on our facebook page asap as apart from our group, others will be booking spots as well and we want to keep our group together and not spread out with other brand vans.

A couple of folk have asked why we have the Whats Up Dowunder E Magazine on our facebook page each month. As some know I write for them and have for many years, but, that is not the reason we have it. The E Magazine, which is FREE to everyone, contains lots of items which are of interest to caravanners and they also publicise our annual get togethers.

If any of you are lawn bowlers, a new facebook page has been set up (Lawn Bowlers Caravan Club Australia). It has information on social games such as barefoot bowls and other events which could be of interest for you and you are welcome to join it.

During our travels we often look for things to do, and now one of our good sponsors, KUI PARKS, have made an update to their web site which will help you.

Just visit their web site and click on "Things To Do" and you will find a good range of activities available including fishing, bush walking, cycle tracks, tennis, golf, bowls and much more. A big thank you to Bert at Kui Parks for this helpful information.

If you happen to visit Mongolia in the future look out for a Royal Flair Raptor. Yes, that's right! The team at Ballarat Caravans in Victoria have just sent one over to a customer, and Scott explains how they did it.

"Bill at Royal Flair said he had an inquiry from a guy in Mongolia and he would like me to follow it through. The first thing that came to mind was, "is it a scam?". Fortunately it wasn't and for the next couple of months I got to deal with a lovely bloke by the name of "Enki".

They (Enki was organising this van for another person) found the Raptor online when they were searching for toy haulers and fell in love with it, but they wanted to achieve something a little different, a Raptor with no rear tray (thanks god RF do custom builds). They wanted a bike rack on the back instead, I believe they have a bicycle shop and race mountain bikes.

The country of Mongolia gets temperatures of minus 25 celsius so Bill suggested to make the walls 50mm thick instead of the standard 25mm and put a ripper diesel heater in it, the van is the standard 13'6" size and the requested a power point next to the toilet because they want to put a "bidet" in it (now that's camping!) and the rest is standard spec and after a lot of emails and chats over the phone (he called me almost every day) they signed off on the plans and we got it built.

We used Mainfreight to ship the van over, the girls in the office were easy to deal with (especially for someone who has never shipped something this size overseas). It's going to take 4 weeks to get China then it hops onto a train to Mongolia.

I got to say Enki was an absolute gentleman to deal with through the process (especially for someone who has never seen a caravan like this) and I hope one day I might meet him. It was exciting going to the last couple of caravan shows and telling other dealers and manufacturers, "We're sending a Raptor over to Mongolia." The look on their faces was great, none of them didn't even think something like this was possible.

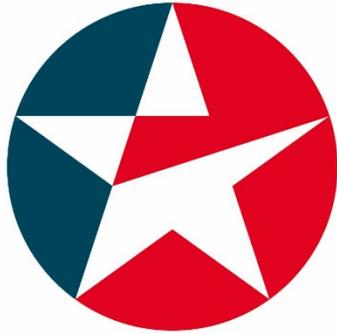
A big thank you to Mahir (designer at RF), he had a lot of pressure on him and he came through in spades. And a big thank you to Bill, without him none of this was possible. " Below is a photo of the great Royal Flair Raptor on the wharf ready to be loaded.



So folks, that's it for our May issue. I hope we have better news for you all in June. Please also remember our sponsors below and support them where ever and whenever you can.

Cheers for now. John

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