

Rally Report – BEAUFORT, Vic

May 2021

The Jayco Owners' Club caravans started to arrive early in beautiful Beaufort Lake Caravan Park during the first full week in May. By Saturday there were fourteen caravans parked next to each other overlooking the lake with its memorable sunrises and sunsets.



Earlier in the week there was peace and quiet but we quickly realised what it meant to be in a caravan park next to a country town football oval. The shouts, cheering and the thud of foot on letter lasted all day Saturday. The noise was only slightly subdued as spectators continued on with their after-game dinner and drinks.

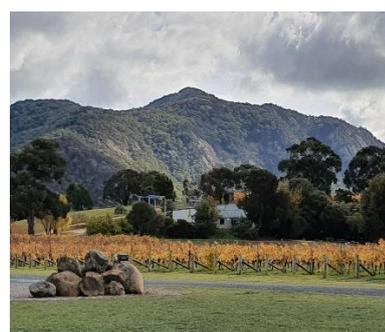
Beaufort is a classic small country town with many heritage buildings still standing and occupied. The area was first opened up by squatters and their workers in the late 1830's. However, the 1850's saw the discovery of gold in the area. Over the next ten years the population grew quickly getting up to an estimated 100,000 in the wider district. As the gold petered out, the agricultural industry became the town's lifeblood. It is particularly known for its sheep and wool and more recently for grape/wine production.



Early Pioneers



Band Rotunda



Mt Cole

Members of started to settle in by Thursday and by Friday nearly everyone was there. The evening's happy hour was an opportunity to welcome potential new members Margaret and Malcolm Mathers/Thomson. The weekend activities were explained by President Colin who had arrived in his and Ann's new Jayco Outback Journey van. There are rumours that they are heading off soon for a long trip. Also, it was good to see former club president Sig in fine shape after an unfortunate stay in hospital. Even the dangers of a long pandemic can't keep a good man like Sig down for long.

On Saturday morning many members joined in a walk around Beaufort visiting some of the sights. These included a couple of second-hand shops, an antique store, the Egg Gallery, the Beaufort Hotel, the Trax Art Gallery in the railway station, and other shops in the main business district.



Beaufort Hotel



Egg Gallery



150-year-old Fire Station

That evening we had a great time at the heritage Beaufort Hotel. Home made meat pies and short ribs were the most popular meals. By the time we had all finished with eating and chatting, it was time to head back to the park to get some sleep before a busy day on Sunday.



A Hearty Hotel Beaufort Dinner

The next morning started with a scrumptious pancake breakfast courtesy of the club treasury. Maple syrup and various jams added to the joy of eating in the crisp morning air. After that, we all jumped into our vehicles or other member's vehicles for a trip to Ararat and their Sunday market. It was fun having a wander around in the sunshine and talking to the locals. Then members drifted off to have a coffee or cup of tea before moving on to the popular Mt Langi Ghiran winery to sample various local wines.



The opportunity to visit the falls at Mount Buangor State Park came next on the itinerary but some members were ready to return to their snug caravans and have a nanna nap. However, Madalyn and Bill soldiered on. The roads in the park showed clear signs of deterioration due to recent rains but they made it to Ferntree Falls, just 30 minutes' walk below the better-known Cascade Falls. It was beautiful and certainly worth the effort.



Sunday evening found our members joining together once again for the traditional happy hour. The temperature was dropping and some huddled close to the fire. It was a great evening as people caught up for long chats and sampling the finger food. Steve's desire for pizza was satisfied with home-made versions made on a pizza stone in a caravan oven. Ian got his drone out took some great photos from high above the festivities. The sad news was that most of us would be heading off for homes or other places on Monday morning. It had been a great rally and the organisers, especially Sue and Fred, should be congratulated. The talk now starts about our June rally in Clunes celebrating the 40th anniversary of our club. Looking forward to it.

