



The Combined Caravan Clubs of Queensland Inc 31st Annual State Rally Goondiwindi. Qld 2006

“Go with Gundy” became the cry as 328 Caravans and Motor homes rolled through the Showground gates of the South Darling Downs town of Goondiwindi on the Queensland/New South Wales Border.

It was the 31st Annual State Rally of the Combined Caravan Clubs of Queensland where twenty six (26) came together to enjoy the hospitality of this agricultural and pastoral community over six days and nights from Wednesday 11th to Monday 16th October 2006.

The Queensland Masonic Touring Club, Bayside Caravan Club of Brisbane, Gold Coast Caravan Club and the Jayco Owners Caravan Club co- hosted the rally which attracted the largest number of attendees in the 32 year history of the event.

Early arrivals were entertained by evening games of Crazy Whist and Trivia competitions as everyone gathered in anticipation of an exciting Rally and for the early birds, a 6.30am start each day began with the “Jay Walkers” group exploring the streets of Goondiwindi followed by lessons in Tai Chi, proved to be a very popular daily event.

Friday the Showground had all but reached full occupancy as the Rally gathered momentum and people thronged to renew old friendships, at the same time make new ones.

Morning and afternoon Teas on “the Green” were popular as musicians from the Queensland Caravan Club entertained with a variety of enjoyable music inspiring many line dancers to jump to their feet in enjoyment of the tempo.

The inescapable “Happy Hour” was a regular 4 p.m. feature and as would be expected well patronised.

Bus Tours of Goondiwindi, which included a welcome cup of tea and damper, were very popular and gave an insight into one of the district’s major area of farming and commerce, cotton.

A daily bus service providing morning and afternoon trips to Goondiwindi town ship being 3 to 4 kilometres away added to the visitors comfort as did a regular shuttle provided by the RSL Memorial Club which appeared to be in constant use.

Throughout the day the Exhibitors displayed and explained their goods associated with Caravanning. The Craft Stalls and Car Boot Sale where Clubs took the opportunity to share the excellent craftsmanship of their Members proved of interest to everyone.



The Street March

The Rally was held over the weekend of the Goondiwindi Spring Festival and at the invitation of the Town Council all twenty-six Clubs participated, taking part in a parade through the Main Street led by the Combined Caravan Clubs of Queensland, the Four Host Clubs, followed by a large contingent of Members from the participating Clubs in what was a very colourful spectacle.

The parade drew a great deal of interest as Flags and Banners displayed by Members wearing their Club Attire marched to the accompaniment of several noisy calls of:

“Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, oi, oi, oi” and cheers of the onlooking locals. Marchers were rewarded with an evening Sausage Sizzle catered for by the Gold Coast Caravan Club upon return to the Showground.

The opening Ceremony attracted a huge crowd which spilt outside the Main Pavilion as the National Anthem was observed and dignitaries were welcomed. This was followed by introduction of the Clubs as their representatives, carrying the Club Flag, entered to a vigorous reception from respective supporters.

At the invitation of the Rally organisers, two visiting Adelaide Caravan Club Members, David & Yvonne Johnson, acknowledged tumultuous applause as they entered carrying their Club flag.

Councillor David McMahon of the Goondiwindi Town Council, Ken McNab President of C.C.C.Q. and John Holzknrecht President of the Sub Committee were introduced and welcomed. Laurence Springborg M.P., State Member for the Southern Darling downs was welcomed and in response, commented on the fantastic “Tribal” Community before him, and held the interest of all as he extended a very warm welcome to the large number of Club Members present. Cr. Tom Wood, Mayor of the neighbouring Waggamba Shire welcomed everyone and officially opened the Rally.

In a two hour concert to follow Country Western Singer Songwriter, Graham Rodger, entertained a huge crowd to loud applause and calls for more! Before the finale, he invited everyone to join him in singing Waltzing Matilda.

In a good will gesture, Graham donated a percentage from the Sale of his CD's to the C.C.C.Q. Fund raiser on behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Saturday dawned and Members of the Gold Coast Caravan Club in full readiness managed the Disc Bowls Competition without a hitch. Sixteen Rinks were in place where 136 Teams contested the Trophy. The event proceeded smoothly with the final playoff being reached at 3.30 p.m. Ernie Hobson and Jo Caiafa of the Suncoast Caravan Club left with the Trophy firmly in their grasp.

Early eliminations did not mean disappointment, simply an opportunity to join the Bayside Caravan Club for a “Cuppa” and watch a demonstration on the Oval indicating how a vehicle with a Caravan attached could be reversed without necessarily ending in divorce!

The day concluded with an evening of joyful entertainment by two local groups, The “Gundy

Variety School Concert” and the “Ann Marie Trybe Trio” performing before a capacity crowd.

A “guess the weight of the Hay Bale Competition” ran throughout the Rally and would you believe entry estimations varied from 92kg to 2250 kg. The actual weight was 273kg and two Members with estimations of 272 kg and 274 kg shared in the cash prize.



After the Dinner

A Daily Newsletter kept everyone abreast of events and featured many numerous happenings, the story of the Caretakers Dog running off with a Members Thongs and shorts while he was comfortably seated in the Toilet Block. The lady who became locked in the shower obliged to rely on male intervention.

Bra and panties handed in to Lost Property with circumstances of loss not known nor (Unclaimed), Dive Bombing Magpie who took a dislike to one particular cycling Member, the attendee seen walking toward the Bar with a happy smile after (unknowingly locking his wife inside the Caravan), and more.

Continental Breakfast on Sunday was an enjoyable and successful innovation bringing something different to the Rally while at the same time allowing a large congregation to assemble for an Ecumenical Service conducted by Rev. Cannon Libby Croaaman. The collection served to benefit the local High School Chaplaincy Fund.

This was followed by the closing Ceremony and drawing of 59 Prizes in their Monster Raffle. During the Ceremony a Cheque was presented to the President from the Treasurer of the C.C.C.Q.Inc., to the tune of \$4000.00, a donation mostly from the affiliated Clubs of Queensland to be presented to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

A typical example of the R.F.D.S. work came home to us when one of our own was airlifted to Toowoomba Hospital after suffering a heart attack at the Rally. We are happy to report that after expert and professional care from the Goondiwindi Ambulance and Paramedics, Graham Evans is progressing well and in a stable condition, now in a Private Hospital in Brisbane.



One of the Streets

Rewards came as the efforts of the organizers and their helpers were acknowledged in correspondence from Barbara Rutherford, Secretary of the Queensland Caravan Club for the manner in which the Rally was conducted as well as Barrie and Cynthia Thurecht from the Suncoast Caravan Club.

The assistance and ease of site access and the smooth and efficient processing of Registration by Office helpers was generously cited while frequent tributes were paid to those responsible for food preparation, the morning and afternoon teas and the smooth running of the Disc Bowls Competition.

A cheque for \$17,200.00 Dollars was presented to Elaine Fairweather, Secretary of the Goondiwindi Pastoral and Agricultural Society, being for the use of the Showground.

During the period of the Rally the Shopper Docket Draw was in operation and the final figure indicates that the local economy was stimulated by the injection of \$100,000.00.

The location of the 32nd Site Rally Site was announced as the Kingaroy Showgrounds to commence on the 26th September 2007 and as the Club flags were slowly lowered the Rally was officially closed by Goondiwindi Town Council Mayor Cr. Tom Sullivan.

The Rally was effectively ended, however, to bring all activity to a conclusion a Sunday evening B.B.Q., catered by the Goondiwindi P & C provided for those remaining and as the night sky darkened a lingering crowd enjoyed sitting around a blazing Camp Fire as Millmerran Bush Poet, Gary Fogarty, assisted by Country – Western singers from the Queensland Caravan Club entertained well into the evening.

While Club Members took away with them fond memories of the hospitality and friendship of Goondiwindi people, they travelled convinced that:-

*‘Out where the hand clasp is a little stronger;
Out where the smell dwells a little longer;
That is where the west begins’.*

The stage has now been set and the incoming Sub Committee has the task of managing the next annual event to an even better standard than that enjoyed at Goondiwindi.

They are enthusiastic and confident and take with them the best wishes of all as the retiring Sub Committee plan to attend in a somewhat relaxed mode!

The 32nd State Rally will be enjoyed at Kingaroy and

“Don’t you worry about that!”



Handing over \$4000.00 to R.F.D.S.

On behalf of the C.C.C.of Q. Inc. I extend their thanks to **Roy Fursman** (President) Qld Masonic Touring Club Inc. for this wonderful story.

Ken McNab C.C.C.Q.Inc. President