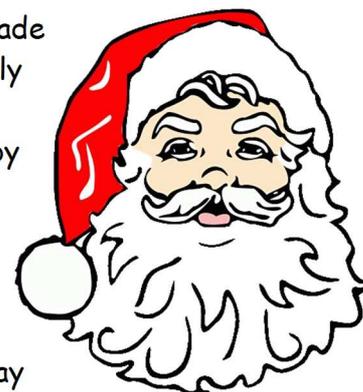




Xmas Show Loxton Caravan Park (29th -30th Nov 2014)

29-30th November 2014

What a great, relaxing weekend it turned out to be for those who made their way to Loxton for the Club Christmas party. The weather really turned it on too as we had two very warm days with the Sunday temperature forecast at 42C, however, I think most of us had left by then even though the pack-up, early as it was, was still in very warm conditions.



Dave, Michele and Jessica were first off the block and arrived on Friday evening after work. The remainder of us made our way to Loxton on Saturday arriving at different intervals throughout the day with the Mewetts availing themselves of an air conditioned cabin rather than camping with the rest of us - not such a bad choice given how warm the weekend was and some of us may have been secretly envious as we tried to keep cool in the shade of the campers or the many large trees around the caravan park.

The Loxton caravan park is very spacious with generously sized powered sites and large shady trees to provide welcoming shade. The ablution block was clean and the camp kitchen provided cooking and cleaning facilities with a TV, table tennis table and ceiling fan together with inside tables and chairs thrown in for extra measure. It provided a welcoming cool site for campers to sit as well as providing somewhere to have a drink while watching tv. Although overall it was small, it was widely used throughout the day and well into the evening providing respite from the heat for some campers. The river was a short distance away and was used for kayaking and fishing and proved very popular with campers of all ages. Certainly a good choice by Max and Lyn.

After setting up camp on Saturday and enjoying a bit of personal R&R we all gathered at the back of Keryn and Brent's camper for some evening camaraderie and a drink or two, eventually dispersing and heading to our beds.

Saturday dawned sunny, bright and warm. Pete and Sandra had to go into Loxton to pick up the supplies for the barbecue from the local shops. It seems that most of the group had a similar idea too as there was some intermingling during the morning.

The rest of the day was spent trying to keep cool in the hot conditions and a few snoozes were had to pass the day as well as some reading. Eventually, around 4-ish we all congregated under the shade of a large tree and chatted about this and that before deciding to set up the barbecue under a couple of trees near Norma & Bronte's camper rather than set up the gazebos we had brought with us. All hands on deck as everything, including salads and the blowing up of balloons, was readied for the laid back barbecue.

The Mewetts and their grandchildren arrived from their air conditioned cabin looking cool and refreshed with John resplendent in a very colourful Hawaiian shirt, tie and red braces together with a Santa hat. Dave started cooking the sausages and chicken provided by the local butcher. Hmm, they certainly smelled good then we all tucked into our meal.





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Between dinner and dessert, Santa made a surprising appearance in a 4 wheel drive Patrol driven by his helper, Sandra. He had to leave his sleigh behind due to the lack of snow and it was far too hot for the reindeer as they were used to the cold conditions up in the North Pole. With a big ho, ho, ho, Santa handed out gifts and lollies to Jessica, Wil, Tahlia and Bradley before enticing some of the ladies present onto his knee!! They were rewarded with a kiss and a small bag of lollies.

Club mascot, Clarentyne, was a bit jealous and got in on the act too sitting on Santa's shoulder waiting for his photo to be taken! Some birds will do anything for a bit of free publicity!!!

We farewelled Santa and his driver and Santa generously handed out lollies to other campers' children as he made his way off into the distance. We were happy to see Santa as we know just how busy he is at this time of year.

After this excitement, out came dessert - fruit salad and ice cream which was enjoyed by all. After clearing up, most of the club members headed into Loxton to see the fireworks display at 9 pm followed by a trip around the town to see the Loxton lights. It was well worth the late night!!



We were told by friends of Roy and Bronwyn's that the forecast temperature for Sunday was 42C. I think that spurred most people on to get their campers packed up early before partaking of a community breakfast at the camp kitchen where the remainder of the chicken, sausages and bread were consumed together with pancakes and fruit salad.

After saying our "goodbyes," one by one, we headed off. Another most enjoyable weekend Christmas party over for another year!! To everyone who participated -thanks for the fun and the laughter and for making the weekend so enjoyable. Merry Christmas.

[Sandra & Pete Harper]