

Sweet meet

Friends, campfires, gadgets and laughter, it was all there at Condobolin, 2010.

The Australian Camper Trailers Group's sixth national meet was held in the Condobolin Showground and Sporting Complex from September 27 to October 1, 2010. The week attracted around 226 people, camping in over 90 camper trailers, caravans, and tents, from as far afield as Tassie, SA and WA.

The weather was mostly fine although a cool change saw us wearing coats all day on one occasion. It just so happened that we had a good downpour of rain in the early hours of Saturday morning at the end of the week, resulting in a wet pack up.

Jamie Hazelden, owner of Dynamic Solar Solutions and a keen member of the Australian Camper Trailers Group arrived with his modified Land Rover 130 and

flip over camper trailer to sponsor three workshops during the week.

Dynamic Solar Solutions' first workshop was hosted by Jamie, and was on the subject of 12V power, solar panels and batteries. Shane Adams presented Dynamic Solar Solutions' second workshop after dark, which was fitting, given that it was on 12V lighting. Shane also presented the final presentation on dual battery systems.

David Cook hosted two camper trailer walkabouts, to check out the latest camper trailer gadgets, which proved to be very popular once again.

Mike Fretwell explained what was needed to use OziExplorer moving maps software, which shows your position on a digital map via a laptop while driving.

A workshop on the topic of schooling kids while travelling was presented by Narelle Stacey. Rob Sanderson held his camper trailer wheel bearing workshop for the fifth year. A UHF radio workshop was given by Kevin Beckwith.

A large number of ladies and young girls joined in on Carol Sanderson's pamper session as well as her scrapbooking workshop.

Carol also held a craft and chat morning, inspiring great conversation over knitting, crochet and tea. Some clever crafters bought along quilts they'd made for when camping.

Carolyn Davis gave members ideas on cooking in the great outdoors using different heat sources like gas and coals from the fire, and showed off the different kinds of vessels that can hold heatbeads.

Donna Zwerus held a workshop using



the Dream-Pot, and Jill Skinner showed us how to use the popular Cobb Cooker.

The kids didn't miss out either – Carol and Suzanna Lawler and Karren and Allie Robson held a storybook workshop, Karen Priest held a beading workshop, and Tracey Smidt held a magnet-making workshop. Cassandra and Hayley Beckwith took the initiative, hosting a treasure hunt for the kids.

The second annual softies vs. hardies camper trailer bowls competition was won by George Mavros and grandson Michael representing the hard floor owners.

One of the funniest events at a

CamperTrailers Group national meet has to be the Tame the Toilet Tent Competition at happy hour. John Heath, a past title holder recovered the claim to fame.

David and Jan Cook assisted by Dave and Joy Wilkinson held a trivia night. The event was well attended and a great success.

Wednesday morning breakfast was cooked by the Condobolin Lions Club in their mobile kitchen caravan.

Friday afternoon saw the closing ceremony. Kevin thanked everyone for their attendance. Mayor Mainwaring once again attended, and thanked us for choosing Condobolin as the venue of our national meet, wishing us a great

time and a safe trip home.

Kevin and Rob presented over \$1000 to Rob Baxter, president of the local Lions Club, from money raised through raffles, the trivia night and auction during the week.

Rob thanked us for our generosity and hoped we would come back again.

Alan Haworth donated six locks and vinyl coated coil cables, which were raffled off. Alan drew the six winning tickets.

Over the week, members were encouraged to nominate someone for The Person Who Most Represents the Group award. Neil and Margaret Morton had donated a perpetual trophy, which Margaret presented to David Cook. David has a fantastic time at the weekend and national meets, and was nominated for his enthusiasm and in the way he has promoted the group.

The prestigious Condobolin Capers award, for most embarrassing or funniest moment during the week, was presented to Colin and Ljbin Lu and family.

The Lu family were rightly recognised for having driven into town, seeking directions to the Lions' Club on the hunt for their cooked breakfast, when in fact they were on the lamb.

Deflated they couldn't locate "the club," and facing the prospect of fending for themselves at camp, the Lu family returned to the faint smell of frying eggs, only to discover a long line leading to a caravan, à la camp Lion.

Next year, the Australian CamperTrailers Group's seventh national meet will be held at Baradine, northwest of Coonabarabran, from September 26-30, 2011. Details of how to register can be found on the www.campertrailers.org website. This will be the group's 10th birthday, too.

We can't wait.

– Rob Sanderson, Australian CamperTrailers Group co-owner ■

