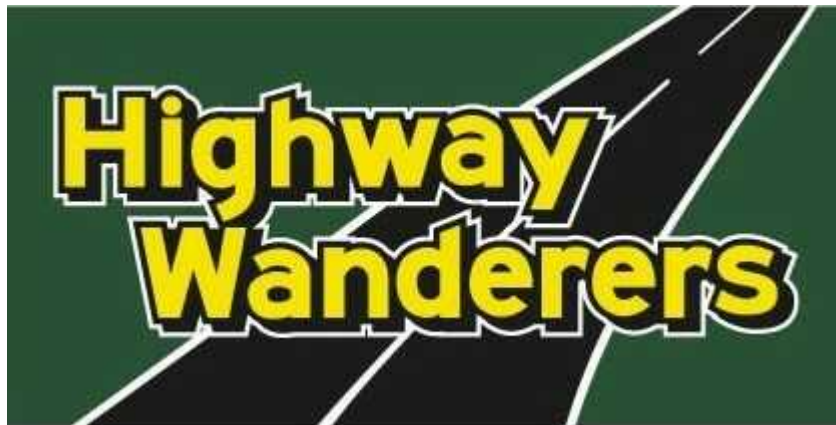




Your very own Highway Wanderers newsletter for August, 2019

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## **Committee Report for August 2019 Newsletter**

Welcome to your Highway Wanderers Newsletter for August 2019. Rather than have a report from each committee member we have decided to do a single report. This avoids some of the duplication that has occurred in the past and also frees up space for more member contributions. Speaking of which this issue has many contributions from you, keep up the good work and continue to submit articles about your adventure, hobbies and anything else that would be of interest to your fellow members.

Your Committee has been active since taking office at Casino in May. We have met several times and have been working diligently in the background.

### **Member Information**

While our website is going through some structural changes we are taking the opportunity to review and improve the Highway Wanderers' information database. One of the first things we did was unify several spreadsheets from different areas of our chapter into a single database, that can be passed on from one committee to the next keeping our history safe.

Of course, the information we have can only reflect what you have given to us so if you know your contact information (mobile number, email address, postal address) have changed in the past 12 months, please let us know at [treasurer@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:treasurer@highwaywanderers.net).

We would also love to know when you joined our great chapter and when your birthday is. So if you haven't already send the info to the above email address.

We wish to welcome new members who have joined our Chapter over the last few months. Doone Latham, Doug Stott, Sonia and George Langham, Jen Pollack, Vincent and Cheryl Stanton, Bevin and Lorraine Martin and Robyn and Danny Davidson. If you run into them on your travels we know you will make them very welcome.

Our Treasurer reports that since Casino we have received 58 member renewals and \$90 in merchandise revenue.

We ask that if making a payment direct to our bank account, please put your surname and CMCA member number, this will make it easier to identify.

We have received an unnamed cash deposit on 17<sup>th</sup> June, a membership deposits from Derek Burton and a paypal deposit from Kaye E Forrester. We have been unable to match these amounts to any members on our database. If

these names are familiar to any of you please contact

[treasurer@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:treasurer@highwaywanderers.net)

## **Highway Wanderers Get Together in Western Australia.**

Our Secretary is currently travelling in Western Australia so we have taken the opportunity to hold a 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration for our members and those travelling in the West. This will occur on the first weekend in August. The occasion is being hosted by our secretary Suzi Hardwick and being held in Wandi at the property of members Steve and Louise. At the moment there are 17 members attending. Contact [secretary@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:secretary@highwaywanderers.net) for all the details if you wish to attend. We look forward to reports about this occasion in the next newsletter.

## **HW Staging point before Elmore Rally**

At a recent committee meeting we decided that Greens Lake at Corop would be a good spot to meet up before the rally. It is a large free camp area with toilets and a dump point. The site is on Geowiki and WikiCamps. In recent times there was plenty of water in the lake. For the brave you could have a morning swim. We would appreciate a member or two to be “hosts” for a week or so before the rally. We would ask you to meet members and maybe organise some parking.

## **General Meeting at Elmore Rally**

There will be a general meeting at the Elmore Rally. This will be held at 3.00pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October in the Craft shed. Following the meeting there will be happy hour and BBQ. If anyone has any motions (which will close 27<sup>th</sup> September) or any specific topics discussed, please notify our secretary at [secretary@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:secretary@highwaywanderers.net) so that the item can be listed on the agenda.

## **Maroochydore School**

Highway Wanderers Mal and Geraldine Beverley have agreed to act as Camp Hosts at Maroochydore School for the week commencing December 14<sup>th</sup> 2019. You must be a Motorhome and fully self contained to camp at the school. It would also be appreciated if you book your attendance. Further details will be forthcoming in future newsletters and on our facebook page.

Before finishing this report, if you have only received one copy of the newsletter and your partner would like to receive their own copy let us know a separate email address and we will add you to the mail out list. You can advise [treasurer@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:treasurer@highwaywanderers.net)

For members that are unwell, get better soon. For members travelling this great country of ours, travel safely. Remember to check into Facebook to see where your fellow members are. What ever you are doing enjoy everything to the fullest



## **OASIS IN THE DROUGHT**

**O**n our current trip in our motor home, we headed west through Roma, Mitchell, Mungallala and Morven in the drought ravaged central west of Queensland. We turned north and visited Augathella, Tambo, Blackall and Barcaldine. As we left Morven the land began to turn green, a result of the recent rain in the area but the dams were empty.

**W**e travelled on through Longreach then to dry dusty Winton where several of my ancestors are buried. Just after we arrived in Winton there was a good rain shower which turned the dust into mud but within a couple of days it was just a dust bowl again. We then travelled on to the town of Kynuna, in the McKinlay shire, where there is a road house, a pub and a population of 20. I think everyone in the town knows each other.

**T**he McKinlay shire is 40,880 square kilometres in area with a population of 1000 and is a bit unusual in that every property in the shire is family owned, there are no large company or foreign owned stations. From Kynuna we headed north to Julia Creek (population 400) which is the main town in the McKinlay shire. Because of the abundance of artesian water in the area, Julia Creek is an oasis in the middle of the drought ravaged central west of Queensland. It is a clean and tidy town with a good selection of shops and a caravan park owned by a council. Every Monday night from April to September one of the community groups puts on a community dinner (main and dessert) for \$15 per person. Nobody went to bed hungry that night.

The council bus picks campers up from the free camp area and takes them to the caravan park for dinner.

**T**he McKinlay shire council recognises the value of the tourist dollar and have provided ample motorhome and caravan parking spaces in the shopping area and although they own the only caravan park in the town, have provided a well appointed free camping area on the edge of town.

Julia Creek, and the McKinlay shire, reminded me of our Village at Casino where community spirit is alive and strong.

### Morry Hill



A chance photo of the past and present Presidents of Highway Wanderers.



DAM FINE RALLY - 27 June to 1 July 2019, Townsville

Paul & I recently attended our first DFR which was held at Ross River Dam Receraton Area in Kelso, a suburb of Townsville.

The event started on a good note, we were sited, awning out, baby q ready to spark up, and our new flagpole proudly flying our Aussie & HWW flags, all within 45 minutes.

There was heaps to keep us busy & entertained from Thursday morning to Monday evening. I want to share with you some of the highlights of my time at the DFR.

It started for me at the first HWW happy hour held near the stage area when the Wassa Rhythms of West Africa - Drum Circle presenter, got about forty Nomads to do "synchronized" drumming. I thought it sounded rather good for a bunch of no hoppers, oops I mean novice.

AND THEN, the fashion parade hosted by Wallaby Bob, with local models, of a slightly mature age, modelling op shop attire. Paul Sandra Daniels & myself

had front row seats to the funniest fashion parade that had the entire audience in stitches. The shenanigans of these models was priceless.

AND THEN, HHW happy hour each day was, as expected, fun entertaining & on the crazy side. As alot of you know I collect cans/bottles so I placed a plastic bucket in the centre of the circle. Someone threw a can & got it in the bucket, thats all it took to start the "can throwing competition" between the fellas. A couple of days later Wendy Hill threw one, so the women joined & comp continued, amongst our other silliness.

At one HHW happy hour we had the biscuit on the face challenge & it is with great pride I wish to announce that a new National or should I say WORLD record was set. The honour goes to Jo ( no last name needed ), at a smashing "official" time, taken & recorded by Michael Gold, of 7•83 seconds. Well done Jo.



AND THEN, Michelle De Rooy treated us one afternoon to a craft class of Paper Marbling. Ladies attended and were thoroughly captivated by her demonstration, then Michelle guided us through the process where we made matching paper and envelope. There was even a surprise visit from our President, Hans showing interest in the activities.



AND THEN, One evening twenty of the HWW went to the Thuringowa RSL Club for dinner & drinks to help Liz Dwyer celebrate her (undisclosed number ) birthday. Michael Gold joined the club & we all used his card to get discounts. Thanks Michael, leaves us more money to share around town. Everyone enjoyed their meals & cold drinks, my hubby Paul found a complimentary coffee machine which several of us appreciated.

AND THEN, Rusty, HWW official happy birthday singer had the honour of being invited on stage to perform. His proud dad could not contain his big smile & puffed up chest.

AND THEN, I went to the Telstra talk & then visited their display, where a young guy sorted out a couple of problems I was having.

AND THEN, the camp oven talk & demo was great. I picked up a few pointers to help expand my cooking capabilities.

AND THEN, One night Paul & I did a bit of R&R to the great music on offer each evening.

AND THEN, HWW welcomed three new couples to the chapter. People see the fun & silliness we have & want to be a part of it.

AND THEN, on open day alot of locals came to the markets & to see what the Nomads get up to. I had a interesting chat to the Volunteer Bush Fire team at their display, which also was very informative. Three of our HWW ladies, Jo, Michelle De Rooy & Phyllis Fegan also had stalls selling their wonderful crafts.

AND THEN, there was Disc Bowls happening organized by Pete & Trish Gallagher. I dont play but I did watch for awhile.

AND THEN, there was always things happening on stage from lectures on various interest to our lifestyle & age. Music to get us moving and the heart pumping. Plus some very good singers.

Last but not least, I thoroughly enjoyed the variety of birds, some just flying around others chirping and singing.

So thats how I spent my time at the DFR, I had a hum dinger of a time followed by another week of spending time hanging out with other HHW till the 8th July...  
😊

Happy travels & stay safe

Maggee



### **A day on Magnetic Island**

Magnetic Island is a rugged island and is only 8km off the coast of Townsville which suits those who are prone to motion sickness. I was surprised to find that there is a resident population of about 2,000 people, and in addition to it's popularity with tourists, the island is quite a busy place. The island is a Mecca for bush-walkers with some 25km of tracks.

Our first walk was to Hawkings Point on the southern tip of the island. It's one of the easiest and shortest walks of around 600 metres with a return time of little more than half an hour. It's also approximately another 600 metres from the bus stop. We had our morning tea at the granite lookout and Lorraine,

during a cool-down period, surprised some of our fellow walkers. Growing old disgracefully, as she is wont to say. From there we walked about a kilometre to the beach to look for a geocache, which keen-eyed Lorraine found; I was about to give up.

Our next bus trip was to Arcadia, a popular swimming beach, for lunch and some more geocaching at the home of the local rock wallabies.

After what seemed a lengthy wait we boarded the bus, and soon arrived at the Radical Bay turnoff to begin our final walk for the day to the forts. This is a popular walk of almost 3km with a declared return time of one and a half hours. There's a lot to explore here among the remains of a military camp and with koalas along the way to say hello to we probably spent a good two hours on this walk. Among the remains are two gun emplacements, the guns having mysteriously disappeared, and an observation tower perched on top of a granite outcrop. It's a sharp climb to the tower but the views are well worth the effort. A loop at the base of the observation tower led us back to the return track.

And so ended our day on Magnetic Island. We caught the bus from the Dam Fine Rally site at 7:30AM and returned home at 6:30PM so it was a long day for a pair of old coots. There are many other walks that we would have liked to have tackled, but not on the same day, and more geocaches to find. A most enjoyable experience and we're grateful for the ferry tickets that we won at the rally.

Phil and Lorraine Fraser

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Horror's new port barrel ready to get to Happy Hour at a moments notice.



## **There is gold at the end of the rainbow. Morry Hill**

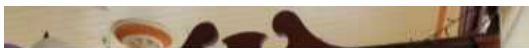
During our travels throughout the dry dusty west of Queensland we have visited many towns, each with its own unique style and infrastructure.

After our short visit to Townsville we headed west (it was good to get away from the “Big Smoke” again) and 50 kilometres east of Charters Towers, at Mingela, we turned left and headed down the Burdekin Falls Dam Road to Ravenswood.

Gold mining started in Ravenswood in 1868 and in those days it was pick and shovel underground stuff. Gold is still being extracted today but by the open cut method. Now many of you will have heard the quote “there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow”. Well in Ravenswood they go one better, there is a gold mine at the end of this rainbow.



**Saint Patrick's Catholic church was built in 1871, but the original building was extensively damaged in a storm in 1884. Rooney Brothers of Townsville built the northern weatherboard part of the current church and Bishop Cani consecrated it in October 1884. In 1905, during the New Ravenswood boom, a nave extension, vestry, apse and pyramid-roofed belfry doubled the size of the building. In keeping with the then fashion, this part of the church has its external frame left exposed.**



**The Imperial hotel was built in 1902 and was one of twenty one in the town at that time. I could not find out what the building cost to build but it would have been rather expensive with decorative bar and stained glass panels throughout.**

**The Imperial was built by James Delaney in 1902 and although James died later that year, followed shortly after by his youngest daughter Kathleen, the licence remained in the family for 92 years. James's wife Anne and three remaining daughters Mary Ellen, Teresa and Johanna, all took turns at running the hotel until it was sold for the**

first time in 1994.



The Ravenswood School of Arts was built in 1873 and is still in regular use today. The annual Halloween Ball is held there every year and it is regularly used by the school for functions. The hall continues to function as a community hub.

Ravenswood has a “thriving” used car dealership and if you are thinking of moving to the town there are many “renovator's dreams” available.

When a town starts to die, the railway always seems to beat the banks out!

Gold mining is still a viable industry in the town but most of the workers drive in from Charters Towers and Townsville.

Pictured is the first part of the open cut which has now been abandoned.

Goats have long been a part of Ravenswood. From the Brisbane Courier 22 December 1927 “Goat racing has become very popular in Townsville and has been attracting large crowds. Son O’Mine won the elimination contest for the champion goat of Townsville and arrangements were made for a contest between Rockhampton’s champion, Koongal, and Son O’Mine to be decided as the best of three races. Son O’Mine won the first race and then won again by better than 10 yards in the second. The winner hails from Ravenswood”.

Eating Pizza on the last day of the Dam Fine Rally



# **DEMYSTIFYING FACEBOOK**

**By Michael Gold**

The Highway Wanderers is different to most other CMCA chapters in that many of our members are full-timers on the road and those that aren't are not based in a close geographical area to each other. This means that we may only catch up at rallies or if we bump into each other somewhere 'out there', so maintaining communication pathways is an important part of your committee's function.

We have three member benefits that help with this, our website, newsletter and Facebook group.

All three have strengths but if two-way, almost-instant communication between members; between members and the committee and if ease of use is important, then Facebook comes up trumps. Of our 360+ members, 260+ already have access to our Facebook page either directly or via their partner, that is over 70%. It would be great if that was closer to 100%!

There are many myths about Facebook that may be a factor in why some of our members don't use it. I'm going to address two of these myths in this newsletter and follow up with a couple more in the next edition.

## ***"Everyone else will see my personal details"***

My answer to this is always "Don't put your personal details on there"! When starting up a personal Facebook page, the only information you need to provide is a real email address. You can use a fake name, a fake photo (or no photo), fake birthday, fake interests etc. No-one will know who you are unless you tell them.

## ***"I don't want to see what everyone else is doing all the time"***

If you don't have any Facebook friends, then there is nothing to see! No-one can become your FB friends unless you approve.

I know of people who sign up to Facebook purely to join a particular group (such as Highway Wanderers) and because they have no Facebook friends they don't get "bombarded" with what other people are doing. They even choose when they want to see what's happening in the Facebook group(s). Even if you do have Facebook friends, you can modify what posts you see and when you see them.

Next newsletter we will look at “how much data does Facebook use” (there are ways to minimise the amount) and “how secure is Facebook” (very).

If you can't wait until the next newsletter and you need help setting up a Facebook page or have other concerns about Facebook, please don't hesitate to contact me on [treasurer@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:treasurer@highwaywanderers.net) or 0408 698 695.

If you are already on Facebook and not a member of our group, please search for Highway Wanderers and press “Join Group”.

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A big thank you to Rita Goebel for assisting the Chapter by maintaining the Calendar of events.

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 August, 2019

### **Sexpo - Brisbane**

Convention & Exhibition Centre, Merivale & Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane.  
Qld

Cost - \$35.00

No camping

Contact – Website: Sexpo

Australia's leading Sexuality & Lifestyle Experience

11 - 13 & 18 – 20 October 2019

### **Octoberfest – Brisbane**

Brisbane Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, Brisbane, Qld.

Cost – no entry fee

No camping

Contact: <https://oktoberfestbrisbane.com.au/>

Australia's largest German festival

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 August 2019

### **Newcastle Food & Wine Expo**

Showground, Brown Road, Broadmeadow. NSW

Cost - \$22.00

No on-site camping.

Contact (02) 4921 2100

Three days of gourmet food, wine & celebrity chefs.

Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 October 2019

### **Port Pirie Country Music Festival, S.A.**

Two venues – NCMA Hall, and Football & Sporting Club

Cost - \$80.00 week-end pass.

No on-site camping.

Contact (08) 8633 2302

Saturday 14 September, 2019

### **Outback Food and Wine Festival**

Stockman's Hall of Fame, Landsborough Highway, Longreach, Qld.

Cost - \$10.00 to \$60.00

No on-site camping.

Contact - [museum@stockmanshalloffame.com.au](mailto:museum@stockmanshalloffame.com.au)

Enjoy the Grazing marquee with a twist of Outback Flavours, Craft Beers and Wine.

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 August, 2019.

### **Cardwell UFO Festival**

Cardwell Jetty Plaza, 132 Victoria Street, Cardwell, Qld.

Cost – Free.

No on-site camping.

Contact – <http://www.cardwellufofestival.com.au>

Highlights the extra-terrestrial activities around Cardwell, North Queensland and Australia.

Saturday night party at the Alien Invasion costume party.

## **Camps Australia Wide – The Concept, the Creation and the Consequences....**

### **3. The Consequences**

The initial response to Camps 1 was very good, so good in fact, that by the end of January we had nearly run out. Another larger order was placed to cope with the demand.

I had sent a few promotional copies to the larger camping stores and to HEMA Maps who, after seeing the demand, were now willing to negotiate a bit on the distribution fees. I had realised by then that I wasn't in a position to distribute myself, especially to the number of outlets that HEMA controlled. A deal was struck and the number of sales dramatically increased.

After six months I became aware of quite a few errors in the book. I was getting up to 20 letters a week complimenting me on the book, information on new sites, but also advising me of errors. The number of updates on the website was getting to be embarrassing, so I decided to do an amended version fairly quickly. So for the next six months I updated the database by detailed research and field trips and then ordered an initial print of 10,000 copies of Camps 2 for February 2003.

The initial two books had been printed with a limited budget in mind and as a result were only printed in two colours, ie black but a different colour for each state and the icons; (maroon for Queensland, blue for NSW, etc). I decided that the next book should not only have reliable information but have more visual appeal as well.

The accuracy could only come with more field trips to verify the data, so this meant visiting as many sites as possible in the next nine months before production started on the book. By then I'd managed to buy the motorhome of my dreams, A 28 foot Ross A-Class motorhome, with car and trailer, and in early 2004 we set off though every state and territory, zig-zagging all the way. A typical day was travelling 200-300 km, stopping at tourist information centres, camping stores (to promote the book) and every rest area, where we logged all the information into a printed out spreadsheet. This included taking photos, odometer and GPS readings. In those days the only GPS was a hand-held Garmin, but it served the purpose. Apart from a three week rest in Broome we worked every day for nine months, covering 50,000 kms. People we met on the way used to say it must be a great way to see the country. It was more like a car rally every day! The stress was starting to build up, so much so that after eight months Helene was dropped off home while I continued to north Queensland for another six weeks. Luckily I also had some help from fellow motorhomers who did quite a bit of research for me as well, especially the Chalmers and the Lattaways. Thanks Guys.

By October I was into the production phase and the new look for the book. I had decided to go full colour for the book so looked around for printers who could handle it. My usual printer didn't have the capability or time to handle such a big job so I approached others in Brisbane and Sydney. They could do it but at a huge cost. I now looked overseas and eventually found an agent in Melbourne who acted for one

of the largest printers in China. Their quote was half of any quote in Australia, but being a Yorkeshireman (a Scotsman with the generosity squeezed out) I accepted the quote providing it included an all expenses paid trip for two to their factory in China to oversee the job for two weeks. They accepted. Helene didn't like the idea of looking at printing presses for two weeks, so I took my local printer instead. He loved it!

In the meantime I approached HEMA to use their maps, which they agreed to for a royalty fee. The only trouble was they were producing new maps, some of which were not available until November.

For six weeks I manually added the sites and numbers on those maps available, but by December I was still waiting for some maps. As it turned out I finished the last map the day before the printing started and had to send the file by dial-up internet that took over two hours!

In the meantime the rest of the production was in full swing. There were quite a few dramas along the way, so December turned out to be a very stressful month, after which I said I was getting out of the business.

The initial 30,000 copies of Camps 3 arrived in February, one forty foot container to HEMA Maps and one forty foot container to our house. The books filled up a three bay garage at our house, but within a few months the numbers had gone down quite a bit.

Sales were still high so I decided to sell the business with great potential. I always had it in the back of my mind that someone else would produce a similar book, so I didn't need any more stress. (Actually there hasn't been any real opposition at all since then, so the concept and format must have been right. Copyright does help though.)

The business sold quite easily, of course, and we moved on.

So, the consequences?

Naturally there was the financial gain. The book has been the most popular camping guide in Australia's history. It has been the best selling publication for HEMA Maps. Even though apps now dominate the scene, the book still continues to be popular.

I am happy that the book has no doubt been a tremendous help to those travelling Australia, especially those travelling for the first time.

As a result of the whole project I did learn a lot of IT skills, including computer software and website creation programmes, which I continue to use to this day.

Like a lot of businesses there can be large amounts of stress, and undoubtedly the stress over five years contributed to the breakdown of a 20 year marriage a few years later. There was a fair bit of criticism of the book at times and I can only say to the few who said I had probably sat in my lounge-chair and compiled the book in my spare time, "if only!"

Safe travels, Phil Procter Q1881

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Some of the stories posted by members on Facebook the past few weeks.....

Trivia – Did you know that since 1994 (the year our chapter started) there have been 16 CMCA rallies held in NSW, 13 in Queensland, 6 in Victoria, 5 in South Australia, 4 in Tasmania, 3 in Western Australia, 2 in the ACT and 1 in Northern Territory?

Jilaana Widloecher reported that a new owner had taken over the caravan park in Home Hill, Queensland and was “working like a trojan horse” to renovate it. At \$10 unpowered and \$18 with power it is “cheaper than the showgrounds and very friendly”.

Russ Daniels was at the old shopping centre carpark in Greenvale, Queensland and reported “.....a sign stating NO CAMPING, another one just after the entrance and also three in parking behind the community centre” He asked at the servo as to “how long the signs had been up and was told “about 2 years” and the reason was “the caravan park complained”! So onto the said Caravan Park for an overnight stay and upon being told “\$20 unpowered” said “no thanks, we don’t need any of your facilities” was promptly offered “\$10, but don’t tell anyone”!!!

Roz Clenton is shedding her clothes at Cozy Corner, Western Australia as well as enjoying whale watching and other stuff around Albany.

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**Andrew & Ev Verschaeren's latest travel news**

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/71ca162dd954f0c9a63f7f295/files/0c881bfb-496a-4e03-ad27-9b04a995bd72/July\\_News.docx](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/71ca162dd954f0c9a63f7f295/files/0c881bfb-496a-4e03-ad27-9b04a995bd72/July_News.docx)

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## Member's Blogs

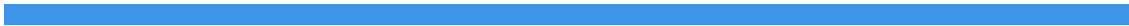
[Jo and Derek](#)

<http://v2.travelark.org/travel-blog-entry/joderekononhome/1/1553818063>

[Michelle and Rob De Rooy](#)

<http://robbiebago.blogspot.com.au/>

**Add your blog to our next Newsletter...email with the link  
to [newsletter@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:newsletter@highwaywanderers.net)**



Must be submitted to [Newsletter@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:Newsletter@highwaywanderers.net) contain a price, and email  
contact.

Hi <<First Name>>

THIS IS NEWSLETTER 6 FOR 2019.... **We Need Contributors.**

Please email contributions

**[newsletter@highwaywanderers.net](mailto:newsletter@highwaywanderers.net)**

Travel safely <<First Name>> and all who travel with you.

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