Variety Postie Bike Dash 2015
by Charmaine Camel

Most of us have heard of the Variety Club “B to B Bash”, where adventurous folk from all walks of life take part in a motoring event featuring ageing motor cars across various outback routes in Australia. The starting and finishing towns always start with “B”.

The brainchild of explorer and philanthropist Dick Smith in June 1985, the event is staged to raise funds for Variety – The Children’s Charity, a national not-for-profit organisation committed to empowering Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

But how many of us have heard of the Variety Postie Bike Dash? Probably not many, because it has only been run once before, last November. This year the Dash is on again, from 1st to 6th of November and Clyde Camel will be taking part. Now that should be a sight to behold... a camel riding a small Honda motorcycle in his first foray into fund raising.

The Dash is not a race or a rally or a contest of speed, it is just a group of adventurous folk exploring the roads less travelled, much the same as the average nomad, but by motorcycle.

The Postie Bike Dash, like the B to B Bash, raises money for disadvantaged children. Members of caravancaravan will have the opportunity to be involved, by making donations and supporting Clyde Camel’s effort in the Dash. Major sponsor is The Good Guys retail group. Each rider will donate and raise thousands of dollars to the cause. We will provide ongoing information on how you can join in with supporting this wonderful event, in the newsletter over the next few months. Every dollar makes a difference.

If you would like to click here to make a donation now you can do so. We have set an initial target of $20,000 and hope to eclipse this so we can increase the target even further. The funds raised go straight to this excellent charity and are immediately put to good use. Variety is proud to be celebrating 40 years of helping kids to be kids, by providing practical equipment and experiences through Variety programs (Freedom, Future Kids & Caring for Kids), helping Australian children in need overcome whatever obstacles they face to live life to the fullest.

Find out more from the Variety website, but use the above link for donations.

Photos courtesy of the Wingham Chronicle
http://winghamchronicle.com.au
How Do You Spell That? (Part 2)

by Ian Simpson

OK you say, I have waited a month what about the rude names. Hold on I am getting there. Let’s look at some names with simple meaning.

Like Boyland (QLD) a popular place with teenage girls; Mangalore (VIC) its Mang-alore not Man galore bad luck girls; Broke (NSW) where most of us have been at sometime; Banana (QLD) sounds like a well named place for Queensland except lots of cows no bananas; Orange (NSW) and what do they grow there? Apples of course; Wineglass Bay (TAS) BYO wine; Xantippe (WA) Australia’s only place name beginning with “X” named after the wife of the Greek philosopher Socrates. It is interesting to note that the Greeks invented thinking or as we know it today, philosophy, or thinking about thinking. Hmmm. Philosophy is perhaps the Greek way of double naming.

Toilet humour is not left out. We can find a few names that give reference to toilets, dunnies, long drops, windy loos or whatever you want to call them and why we need them. Names like Dunedoo (NSW) pronounced ‘dunny-doo’ somewhere to do your business; Diapur (VIC) a place for babies; Innaloo (WA) no it’s not occupied, it is the name of an Aboriginal woman of the Dongara region; Moolooloo (NT) Aboriginal for ‘slippery ridges’ or is it where the cows go to the loo making the hills slippery, with a double loo; Poowong (VIC) from the Aboriginal word for “carrion” or “putrefaction”; Wee Wee Creek is self explanatory.

What about places that don’t inspire you to visit if you just look at the name, like Coffin Bay (SA) named after Vice Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin; Dismal Swamp (TAS) not a place well thought of by the person who named it; Dog Swamp (WA) woof woof; Foul Bay (SA) it is a nicer place than the name implies and how can you go wrong when it’s just down the road from Tiddy Widdy Beach; Mount Buggery (VIC) Buggger! Stuffed up that name; Useless Loop (WA) the first half of Useless Loop’s unusual name was bestowed upon it by French explorer Henri-Louis de Saulces de Freycinet, he dubbed the area “Havre Inutile” (“Useless Harbour”), because he believed the inviting harbour to be entirely blocked by sand bar. The area is renowned for producing the purest salt in the world and perhaps not so (VIC)? Not a pig in sight.

Oops run out of time again sorry you will just have to keep a hold on it till the next issue when the rudies will be revealed.

A Safety Warning About Butane Cookers

NSW Fair Trading Commissioner, Rod Stowe, is warning consumers not to buy portable butane ‘lunchbox’ type cookers due to safety issues, including overheating.

We all enjoy the experience of cooking out in the open, savouring the aromas that waft from the food that we have prepared. But no one would enjoy ending up in hospital or worse, as the result of serious burns from an exploding cooking stove.

Testing, undertaken at the request of NSW Fair Trading and other State gas regulators, has found a fault with the cookers’ shut-off valves, posing a risk that the devices may overheat and could explode. These cookers are lightweight and portable and are popular for use in camping and caravanning. They are inexpensive and commonly sell for between $15 and $30. But purchasing one could end up very costly.

A list of cookers that have been banned from sale in NSW is now on the NSW Fair Trading Website.

Thanks to members Brett & Jenny Cooper for bringing this info to our attention.
Warm Pasta Salad
by Charmaine Camel

Balmy autumn days, cool autumn nights. April is here and who would want to waste this wonderful time of the year by spending hours slaving over a hot stove. This delicious dish can be whipped up in minutes, so you can make the most of happy hour.

Pasta can be anything you want it to be. Hot and hearty or light and delicious... it is entirely up to you.

First thing to do is to place some pasta in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Heat on the stove until it boils and then turn down the gas, so that it gently simmers for 5 minutes. While this is happening, get out the chopping board and knife and chop up some parsley, basil and garlic. Dice a tomato finely and season with cracked pepper. Grate a handful of tasty cheese and you are just about set.

When the pasta is *al dente*, drain ready to dish up. Place some lettuce leaves on a plate so that the entire plate is covered. Now arrange half of the pasta on the lettuce leaves. Sprinkle some of the grated cheese onto the hot pasta followed by some chopped basil and parsley, tomato and garlic. Place the remaining pasta on top and repeat the garnishing. This is then followed by some more cracked pepper and bingo, the meal is ready.

A crispy cold glass of savignon blanc is the ideal accompaniment for this dish.

**Ingredients:**
- Pasta (Penne or Spirals)
- Filtered cold water
- Chopped parsley and basil
- Chopped fresh garlic
- Finely diced tomato
- Grated cheese
- Cracked pepper
- Lettuce leaves

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Touch Footy at Breckenridge Farmstay
from Shirley Breckinridge

Breckenridge Farmstay, near Wauchope in the historic timber country of the mid north coast of NSW, is a 100 acre working farm with cattle, chickens, bird aviaries and an abundance of wildlife. This year, when the touch footy Junior State Cup was held in Port Macquarie during February, Breckenridge Farmstay played host to teams from Parkes and Woollongong.

The Farmstay is run by Shirley and Barry Breckenridge and has been operating since 1995. There is a great variety of activities available to guests and a selection of accommodation options, including a holiday house, cabins, bunkhouse, as well as powered and unpowered caravan and camping sites.

With plenty of room to practice and relax, Breckenridge was the ideal base for almost 100 young competitors to base themselves during the competition. Away from the rush and bustle of the coast, but still within easy reach of the competition venue, it was a great home away from home.

The catering was a great success. Meals were well received by the boys, tired and hungry from playing touch footy for two days.

There was significant rain during the competition, with the final day being cancelled due the terrible weather and the state of the grounds. The youngsters who stayed here on the farm, still made the most of their time away from home, swimming and playing outside even in wet weather.

The Gibb River Road in West Australia’s Kimberleys, has achieved legendary status. For 650km from near Kununurra, it winds its way through some of the remotest parts of the north-west to Derby on the coast.

Rough and tough and strictly 4WD country, its surface consists of hard-core corrugations, mud and sand. Built as an access route for road trains to the cattle stations that stretch across the north of Western Australia’s Kimberley, the Gibb River Road is only open to traffic during the dry season. “Doing the Gibb” has assumed the aura of a rite of passage with travellers in this part of the world. But don’t be intimidated by it. Provided that you are properly equipped and with current information on road conditions, it is a place where you can spend a week or more exploring this wild and fascinating part of Australia. Or you can do it in a couple of days.

As winter turns to spring in most of Australia, here in the north it is known as the late dry season. The roads are well worn and little moisture will be encountered, except when crossing rivers and creeks. Just 50km after entering the Gibb River Road, El Questro Wilderness Park offers a tranquil respite before tackling the long drive ahead. This is a place of adventure and wonder, where you can lose yourself and your 4WD on a property that is larger than some countries. Soaking hot springs trickle down from beneath the red rock mountains into ancient palm-lined gorges to soothe tired muscles.

The corrugations on the Gibb are relentless. After crossing the Pentecost River shortly after leaving El Questro, it is time to settled in to the task of eating up the kilometres and trying to pick the right speed to minimise the vibrations. There is little traffic at this time, but of course that would be different at other times of the year. The scenery is stunning and ever changing.

The halfway point is Mt Barnett Roadhouse where there are fuel and supplies for sale. Sometimes the roadhouse runs out of some types of fuel, so if you are depending on getting fuel here, it pays to phone head before you leave, just to be sure. A few km behind the roadhouse is the Manning Gorge Camping Area, for a well deserved overnight stay. This is the land of the Boab tree and the campground is adorned with these beautiful giants, some of them thousands of years old. It is though that the seeds of the Boab floated across the Indian Ocean from Madagascar or Africa, thousands of years ago. They are not related to any other plant life in Australia.

The Manning Gorge Camping Area has a most welcome feature. Just metres away is a billabong or lagoon where you can swim in safety. No crocodiles here! A serene oasis and a refuge from the dust and the corrugations. The words of Waltzing Matilda drift through one’s mind at the sight of the billabong.

For those who wish to extend their adventure into even more remote regions, places such as Mitchell Falls beckon. But be sure that you have all that you need for the time you will be off the beaten track, with a generous reserve in case of the unexpected. Fuel and food are not available for much of this area so you do need to carry all that you require.

From Mt Barnett to Derby, the road generally improves. Once back on the bitumen you feel as if civilisation is not far away