

# Convoy for Kids committee set wheels in motion

The Convoy for Kids rolled into Lakes Entrance recently and about 300 trucks and 4000 people gather at the Greater Lakes Airfield.

The event had been in the planning for a few years and October 2009 saw a small group of local people get together and form a committee to get the 'big' wheels turning.

The committee decided to have a Convoy for Kids, and donate the money (about \$50,000) to Angel Flight and Camp Quality.

Truck companies, drivers and almost and anyone connected to the truck industry were invited to take part.

The Great Lakes Airfield was donated by the owner at no cost.

Member of the organising committee, Margaret Campbell, said the committee knew it needed a large drawcard, so it was decided to put it in the form of a truck drivers' reunion dinner honouring Hancock's, Jarvis' and McMullen's transport.

The dinner was a sell out with 500 people settling down to a beautiful two-course dinner at the Lakes Entrance Golf Club on the Saturday evening.

"A lot of good com-

ments were given to the wonderful caterers. Three books were on sale depicting the history of the three transport companies. These were very well received," she said.

Friday was a day for the planning of the area at the airfield. Lots of gear had to be bought in and set up for Saturday.

"So many people turned up to the working bee and to be truthful most everyone took time off from work to do this," she said.

The organisers were more than pleased with Saturday's weather forecast.

"The carnival had been set up. Food and drink vans arrived, the semi trailer became a large stage for the band, Trucking With Tim, and the many items to be auctioned arrived," she said.

There were many attractions for children and adults to enjoy including stalls, a spinning wheel and the auction.

"All we needed was the trucks. All of a sudden the first truck drove through the gate, to be followed by something like 280 beautifully presented trucks," Margaret said.

"Lots of kids on board, many horns tooting. What a sight to see.



Trucking industry patriarchs John Jarvis, Charlie Hancock and Arthur McMullen gathered for their companies' reunions at the Lakes Entrance Golf Club after the recent East Gippsland Convoy for Kids. (PS)

Then the carloads of people started arriving very soon after this, everyone was busy buying food, drinks, enjoying the carnival, walking along the great line up of trucks. Cameras were very busy. It was like a very large festival."

When the peak of the crowd had arrived the auction got underway.

"Everything that was there was donated by so many that it is impossible to name them individually but if we could we would give you all gold awards."

Sponsors and articles came from locals and all over Victoria and some from New South Wales.

Trophies were given out to five different trucks entered in various categories.

Buses were on hand to take people to and from the reunion dinner later in the evening.

Many locals and visitors had the chance to view the convoy that travelled from Morwell and another that travelled from Orbost to take part.

VicRoads and police assisted so as the convoy could keep moving.

The committee thanks all that donated the time and effort so as the event could happen.

On Sunday most of the committee arrived at the

airfield and cooked breakfast.

Some children also got a ride in a helicopter, making it a memorable event for years to come.



The East Gippsland Convoy for Kids was hosted at the Greater Lakes Airfield recently. The event saw close to 300 trucks gather at the site, with convoys coming from Morwell and Orbost to take part. (PS)



John Jarvis' restored truck was one of the many older vehicles that took part in the Convoy for Kids. (PS)