

## CUSTODIAN NEWSLETTER

### Welcome to 2025 Volume 3 Edition 2

#### In this edition: Shade for the happy hour shelter

The happy hour shelter structure is similar across the CMCA RV Park Network. What does change is the climate of each RV Park and the orientation of the shelter at the park.

Most shelters are open-sided, but some now have solid walls attached to protect guests from inclement weather. We are not able to install solid walls on all our shelters for various reasons, but the main reason will be if it is located within a flood area, where solid walls are not permitted.

In cases where there is no solid wall, it may be necessary to install some drop-down blinds that can be used to protect guests when needed. These have been installed in many of our park shelters now.

The blinds that are purchased come in 2 sections for each 3m wide bay. Once installed, they can bend/break in the center under high wind loads over time. For this reason, we recommend strengthening the top and bottom of each blind.

Norm Spencer (Q93998) and Michael Goodwin (Q87053) have just undertaken this at CMCA RV Park Penola and are happy to share the below with all Custodians.

#### Tools required:

Battery drill, phillips head drill attachment and 8mm TEK attachment, hammer and block of wood to protect roller end, battery or electric grinder and cutting blade, hacksaw, silicone spray lubricant.

#### Equipment Purchase:

3m of 40mm high pressure PVC Pipe, 2 x 2.4m lengths of 16mm dowel (hardwood). Small 6g x 15mm self-tappers



Figure 1 40mm PVC and 16mm hardwood dowel

Step 1. Remove blind metal support bracket (TEK Screws) and lower blind to ground.



Figure 2 Showing TEK screws to be removed

Step 2. **Bottom of screen:** Unroll blind on table and remove end caps off bottom tube and pull the tube from the blind and remove aluminium joiner from tube and replace with 1 of the dowels. Center dowel and screw in through predrilled holes. Push the rod back into the blind and replace end caps.



Figure 3 top roller and centre joiner shown

Step 3. **Top of screen:** Remove the end caps from large top roller, then remove center joiner from both tubes. Cut the 3-meter length of 40mm pressure PVC pipe in half using a grinder or hacksaw. Taking care cut a 1cm wide slot down the length of the 1.5mtr tube with a grinder with cutting blade attached. (The writing on the tube makes a good marker for the two cuts as it must be straight from end to end. This

is so the PVC will fit inside the tube, halfway in each part of the tube).

Step 4. Spray the PVC tube with silicone to allow it to slide inside each tube. Slide it into the tube, you may need a hammer to reach the halfway mark, make sure you use the block of wood to stop damaging the end of the tube. Put two of the removed screws in to hold the PVC in place then spray with silicon the other half of PVC before hammering the second half of aluminum roller onto PVC until it butts up hard. Then insert the remaining two screws. Reinstall the end caps and refit the blind to the hangers.

If you don't have the tools or skills, maybe the local Men's Shed can provide some assistance. The important one is the bottom roller as this will cause more issues if it is allowed to bend.



Figure 4 Finished product at CMCA RV Park Penola

## Custodian Profile

Norm and Jenny Spencer (Q93998) are the current Park Custodians at CMCA RV Park Penola.

Norm was a carpenter/builder for many years in NSW and Qld and Jenny was a teacher.

"After retiring from our jobs, we spent around 10 years managing Lifestyle Villages throughout the eastern states of Australia. Since then, we have spent time lapping mainland Australia and Tasmania and have taken a couple of cruises and a motorhome trip around New Zealand" Jenny said.

"We now enjoy travelling around different States in Australia, checking out what Mother Nature has to offer and meeting people who also like travelling."

We started our Park Custodian work in Temora for 3 weeks learning all the ropes. This has led us to be Custodians in a variety of CMCA RV Parks. We enjoy meeting all the different

people at the happy hour, having drinks, a chat and a good laugh at all our stays. We hope we can keep doing it for a while yet." they added.

"It is good to be touring around the various places and seeing all we can in the country and city areas. We live in the Wide Bay area in Queensland and find the peace and quiet to our liking."



Figure 5 Norm and Jenny Spencer (Q93998) at CMCA RV Park Penola.

## Custodian Vacancies

In order of urgency,

**Geeveston Tas: 6 April – 28 July**

**Boyup Brook WA: 22 April – 1 May**

**Temora NSW: 2 June – 19 October**

**Charliewille QLD: 30 June – 28 July**

**Batchelor NT: 30 June – 1 August**

**Ingham QLD: 30 June – 31 October**

**Port Pirie SA: 31 July – 9 August**

**Humpty Doo NT: 31 July – 1 October**

**Nyngan NSW: 22 October – 16 November**

**Casterton VIC: 27 October – 11 November**

If you are interested and able to assist with all or part of these dates, please call Emily on 02 4978 8788 or email [emilyking@cmca.au](mailto:emilyking@cmca.au) as soon as possible.