

# CUSTODIAN NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to 2024 Volume 2 Edition 3

### In this edition we look at weed management and our new CMCA caravan park

Weed management is something I will continue to remind you about.

Following a suggestion by our Park Custodian at Temora, David Coats (NSW S121848), we have prepared a simple weeds guide for custodians. This identifies several weeds that have burrs which can cause significant damage or injury to humans and their pets.

This is available as a resource document on the website under Custodian Information. A printed version will also be provided to each park to add to the Custodian Folder.

Below is an extract from the weeds guide showing a number of common weeds that you will find across Australia.



Figure 1 Caltrop or cats head

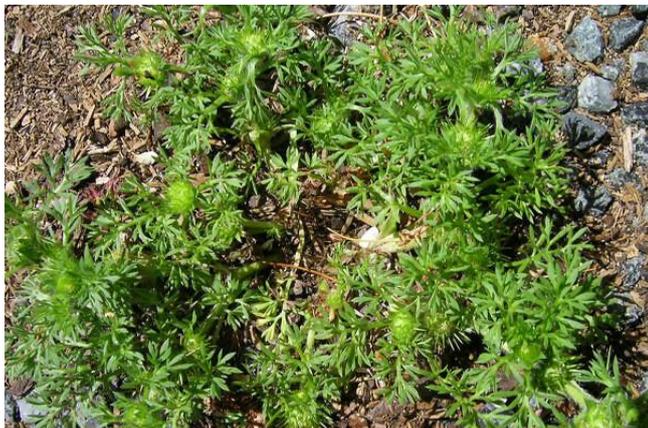


Figure 2 Bindii



Figure 3 Khaki weed



Figure 4 Nagoora Burr

These weeds are significant problems at our parks and if left unchecked will create a situation where guests will not want to stay.

Several custodians have requested we engage contractors to manage weeds within our parks, however when weeds are first discovered action should be taken to remove them from the grounds rather than wait until they become serious. We provide spray equipment at each park, if you are not confident in using this equipment, please advise NHQ so that we can come up with an alternative solution. If there is no spray equipment or chemicals, please let us know.

Spraying of the appropriate chemical when weeds are young is the best measure, but physical removal of plants may be needed once burrs are present on the plants.

This is an ongoing project at our parks because seed remains viable in the soil for many years and guests will also bring new seeds into the parks with them.

**Rule No 1 - don't leave the problem for the next custodians to sort out!**

**Rule No 2 - the earlier you do something about it the easier and cheaper it will be.**

## CMCA Leisure and Caravan Park Nyngan NSW

CMCA is now the proud manager of the Nyngan Leisure and Van Park located at 8-10 Old Warren Road Nyngan. Nyngan is on the Mitchell Highway, 3 hours west of Dubbo and 6 hours from Broken Hill.

This small caravan park offers powered and unpowered sites as well as the normal CMCA self-contained sites. The park includes showers, toilets, barbecues and we are in the process of installing a dump point for park guests and CMCA members.

CMCA members will receive a discount on all site types in the caravan park, and if you are staying in the self-contained camping area you can access the park amenities for an extra \$3.00 per site per night.

The caravan park was about to close, so CMCA offered to manage it. Volunteer custodians will be required to manage the caravan park as per our other RV Parks, and you can book through the calendar as normal or contact NHQ. We provide a powered site for the Custodian, and the park includes an office and reception area, equipment for park maintenance and good storage areas. The amenities are tidy and include coin-operated washer and dryer as well as some basic kitchen equipment.

The owner's cleaning contractor undertakes their duties during weekdays, so the custodians will be asked to keep an eye on the amenities over weekends and public holidays and keep the office space clean and tidy. A ride-on mower and other small equipment is provided for the custodians to maintain the grounds. An office and storeroom is provided for the custodians' use, and the park has a dedicated phone number for bookings.

### Custodian Profile

Jan Donald and Helena McCaffery (V131896) current custodians at Bundaberg RV Park. Members since 2022.

"We are sisters who grew up in Geelong Victoria and moved to separate parts of the state when we married."

Helena moved to Melbourne and Jan to Princetown, which is near the famous 12 Apostles. Jan became a dairy farmer and Helena a bookkeeper.

"We decided life was too short to waste and decided to travel Australia together. We purchased the van and tow vehicle in mid-2019 and left home after Covid in early 2021" they said. "We travel with our 2 dogs Eko and Murphy. We travelled Tassie for 11 months from August 2022 and were custodians at Railton in Tassie and loved it. We met lots of members who were guests while we were there and have made lifelong friendships from many of them."

"We attended the Tasmanian state rally in Campbell Town 2023. We also attended a few of the Tassie Overlanders monthly chapter meet-ups and were made very welcome. Once we were back on the mainland, we travelled up north for the CMCA National Rally in Dalby. On our way to Bundaberg, we stopped at an MSO near Maryborough.

"After Bundaberg, we will be custodians at Ingham and Innisfail later this year. We figure it took us 11 months to see 'most' of Tassie so it might take us a few years to do QLD. We like to move slowly and see as much as we can as we travel through an area. We hope to meet many more members on our travels and to catch up with a lot while we are custodians. The most common question we are asked is what it's like to travel as sisters. It works great for us because we are so different."

Jan is great with van and car maintenance and loves to help other campers or give advice when asked. Helena loves to research their travel destinations and is the navigator.

"We both love listening to others' adventures and meeting like-minded people. Don't forget to say hello if you run into us on our travels."



Helena and Jan (V131896)

### Custodian vacancies for 2024

**Please see below for our most urgent custodian vacancies.**

#### In order of urgency:

Charleville QLD: 1<sup>st</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> May

Geeveston TAS: 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May

Ingham QLD: 15 May – 3 June

Innisfail QLD: 15 May – 23 June

Humpty Doo NT: 31<sup>st</sup> May – 30 June

Penola SA: 30 June – 4 November

If you can assist with any part of these vacancies, please contact Emily at [emilyking@cmca.au](mailto:emilyking@cmca.au) or call her on 02 4978 8788.