



CUSTODIAN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2025 Volume 3 Edition 1

In this edition: Handover as custodians and what happens when you are a trained custodian staying at a park but not the Custodian on duty. Also, we look at Happy Hours and your role with these.

Custodian Handover

We are very grateful to all our Custodians and the valuable work they undertake for our club and members. Without volunteers we would not have our RV Parks, and we would not have rallies and other events that club members attend.

Something that comes up at our RV Parks is the role trained custodians can play when they are at our RV Parks but are not the Custodians on duty.

Here are some guidelines:

- When you are the current Custodian, you remain the Custodian in control until the official handover with the next one. You may negotiate certain duties to the next Custodians, and this is by mutual agreement.
- If you are the next Custodian and have arrived a few days early to get familiar with the RV Park and to facilitate the hand-over, please be aware that you are simply a park guest until hand-over is completed, unless you have negotiated some roles in the interim.
- If you are trained as a Custodian and are staying as a guest at any of our parks, you do not have the authority to enforce any of the park rules nor to direct other guests to do something. You may wish to bring matters to the attention of the duty Custodian, but it is up to them to enforce the rules.
- All Custodians are volunteers and should be treated with respect by all.
- If you would like to assist the Custodian with chores whilst you are staying at an RV Park, please ask them. Do not just step in and do things without some discussion first. Your good intentions could be misconstrued as interfering.

As with our members, not every custodian interprets the rules of our parks the same, and people also deal with situations differently, especially human interactions and conflict.

If you consider that something does not seem right with how a park Custodian is managing a park or think that some of the rules may be interpreted incorrectly, please be considerate of how your message may be received. It is not the place of our members to direct volunteers about how they should do their roles, that is for NHQ to decide. Please contact NHQ with your concerns so that staff can follow up on the matter.

Remember that not everyone has the same life experience, and not all Custodians have the same experience in their roles either.

Happy Hours

What is “Happy Hour” and what is the purpose of this tradition at our parks?

When travelling, happy hour means different things to different people, but we see it as an opportunity for people to get together and share their stories and get to know others who are travelling. Some lifelong friendships come from a happy hour meeting.

Our RV Parks provide a great opportunity for guests to get together regularly. This is why we have provided a happy hour shelter at most of our RV Parks.

As Custodians, you may not want to attend any or all of these events, but it is important that you advise guests that there is the opportunity to gather daily for happy hour and that all are welcome. You need to point out the rules around happy hour as well to avoid conflict later on. If you are not a social person, you still should make sure that guests are able to attend some type of social gathering. Ensuring that the barbecue is available and has gas available is a minimum. Another would be to ensure the fire pit is in a safe place and firewood is available for use.

The happy hour shelter is for the use of all guests, and no guest should be made to feel unwelcome to attend this communal space. Obviously, there are rules around how the space should be used, and it is up to the Custodians to ensure that these rules are being adhered to by all. These rules include:

- No smoking or vaping
- No fires under the roofed area
- No pets unless all in attendance have given their consent, and even then, pets should not be anywhere near food preparation areas
- Keep noise to a minimum later in the evening

Something that is not tolerated by CMCA and should not be tolerated by our Custodians is actions or words that could offend. This could include jokes that are not considered tasteful, offensive remarks such as racist or sexist comments, and offensive actions. Swearing in front of guests is not an option either. It is important that Custodians

set the standard in this regard and ensure that they make every effort not to offend guests.

We have fielded complaints from guests who have felt uncomfortable attending happy hours because of the jokes and conversations that are being had by attendees. We are not pointing fingers here but please be aware that what you say and do is being observed. Even though you may say things in good fun, be mindful of who is around. We do not want the situation where guests are being excluded from happy hours because they do not feel comfortable around someone else.

If it is proved that a Custodian is not adhering to these simple rules, action will need to be taken by head office.



Figure 1 Australia Day barbecue at Geeveston RV Park



Figure 2 Australia Day relaxing at Geeveston RV Park

Custodian Profile

Graham and Julie Nelson (Q142295), recent Custodians at Railton and Geeveston.

Graham has a background in surveying and mining, whilst Julie was a nurse. They have been retired for the past 6 years and live in Bundaberg when not travelling.

“We love travelling around Australia in our van and have been doing this off and on for the past 11 years” Julie said. “This is our third and longest visit to Tasmania (4 months). Chance would have it when we wanted to stay at Railton there was no Custodian, so we put up our hands to do 2 weeks at Railton, and then 4 weeks at Geeveston.”

“Graham loves mowing our 3½ acres at home, so he enjoyed being back on the mower at the parks. During our time at Railton, we had Xmas day celebrations with the people in the park all contributing to lunch, it was fantastic; during our time at Geeveston, we hosted a sausage sizzle with 39 people attending; on Australia Day everyone in the park contributed to a fun filled day with BBQ lunch, damper and Billy tea and a game of cricket.”

“The best thing about being custodians is meeting and interacting with people, we have made such wonderful friends.”

“We have found being Custodians is very rewarding, and we would encourage anyone travelling in Tasmania to take on this role to help keep such wonderful parks open.”



Figure 3 Graham and Julie Nelson (Q142295)

Custodian Vacancies

In order of urgency,

Railton Tas: 19 Feb – 26 Feb & 5 April – 31 May

Geeveston Tas: 6 April – 31 May

Boyup Brook WA: 1 May – 1 August

Temora NSW: 19 May – 19 Oct

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 as soon as possible.