

CUSTODIAN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2024 Volume 2 Edition 11

In this edition: Some interesting stories from our Custodians, official opening of CMCA Nyngan Van Park, and full houses at Temora and Penola

Some anecdotes from the trenches for your enjoyment:

Custodians are always dealing with those who should not be staying at our parks, or who sneak in late at night hoping for a free stay.

Here are a few stories from Innisfail.

- A roof top camper sneaks in late at night so the Custodian wanders over to have a 'chat'. As they are setting up camp for the night, the custodian asks, "can I help you set up?" "Sure thing" they respond. So, he helps with the table and chairs, and the campers' comment that he is very friendly and helpful. The custodian responded with, "I am helping you get all this out so that I can watch you trying to get it all back in the rig before the police show up!" With that they packed up quickly and drove out the park gates.
- At the same park another roof top camper snuck through the closed gates at about 10.30pm hoping for a free night. They even parked behind other campers so that the custodians could not see them. When the custodian wandered over to have a 'chat', he shone his torch into the roof top tent and the female traveller sat up (completely naked!). They were told that they cannot camp at the park, and it was obvious that they had ignored all the signage that said exactly that. With the roof top tent still up, they quickly drove out and disappeared down the Bruce Highway.

And a story from Nyngan.

- A wild pig was spotted wandering within the caravan park grounds. Attempts were made to chase it out, but it kept circling around and would not leave. One guest managed to corner the pig in the amenities block and closed the door on it. This was considered a bad choice, knowing the damage wild animals can potentially cause, and the door was opened to let it out.

The police were called to assist in the relocation of the pig, however their attempts to chase it out were also fruitless. Whilst the police were on site, the pig wandered into the neighbouring property. The police gave chase, and the pig was successfully relocated "to the farm".



Figure 1 New front gates installed at Nyngan Van Park

Opening of CMCA Nyngan Van Park

The official opening of the Nyngan Van Park was held on Wednesday 30 October. Chair Nelson Crawshaw and his wife Sheri N98597 attended on behalf of CMCA. Nelson commented that the park had seen significant improvements since he stayed there a year ago.

Owner, Bruce Maynard, was also on site to welcome CMCA members and other park guests for the occasion. Nelson and Bruce said a few words and then unveiled the new plaque commemorating the event.

CMCA has managed the Van Park since April this year, and thanks to Col and Eva Burgess N83353 (custodians for that entire time) the park is looking great. Bruce has plans for more improvements in the coming years as his budget allows. Next will be clearing to enlarge some of the powered sites, expansion of the unpowered camping area, construction of an off-leash dog area, and construction of a roof over the happy hour area (including a brick pizza oven).



Figure 2 Owner Bruce Maynard and Chair Nelson Crawshaw at the official opening



Figure 3 Nelson Crawshaw and Bruce Maynard unveil the new plaque commemorating the official opening

Interestingly, Bruce also brought along the plaque that commemorates the opening of the Nyngan Caravan Park and Squash Centre back in 1980.

Bruce has owned the park for just over 20 years now, and he is excited with the new management arrangement with CMCA which allows him to relax and think more about how to improve what the park offers its guests.

Custodians will enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Van Park and the welcoming rural township of Nyngan. The town is well known for its broadacre agriculture, and you will see plenty of emus on your drive around the region.



Figure 4 History combined. The original plaque when the park was opened by Neville Wran in 1980 alongside the CMCA plaque



Figure 5 Nelson Crawshaw, Bruce Maynard, Sean Constable and Col Burgess

Major events at both Penola and Temora

A big thanks to our Custodians at Penola (Len & Margaret Bunker Q134461) and Temora (Michelle & Rohan Matthews N73402) who had their first full parks to deal with. Both towns had an influx of campers, with Temora holding its annual Air Show and Penola hosting the staging point for members prior to the National Rally in Mount Gambier and then the Solos Rally in Penola.

It is great to see members supporting our RV Parks when there are events in or near those towns. Remember to check the digital platforms for events coming up in our RV Friendly Towns.



Figure 6 Temora RV Park during the recent Temora Air Show



Figure 7: Penola RV Park prior to the recent Solos Rally in Penola

Custodian Profile

Neville Maas Q98428

Neville has been travelling around Australia for the past 20 years and loving it. He says “it is always a pleasure meeting other travellers as you go along.”

“In my youth I worked dairy farms with my parents, and later on became a linesman for many years which gave me the passion to see other parts of our great country” he added.

“Currently, I am based on the Sunshine Coast being a jack of all trades on my sisters’ property and am looking forward to meeting other travellers whilst being a first-time custodian at Boyup Brook, WA in 2025, so please call in and say hello when coming this way.”



Figure 8 Neville Maas Q98428

Custodian Vacancies

In order of urgency,

2024

Geeveston TAS: now until 14 November

Railton TAS: 27 December onwards

2025

Geeveston TAS: 26 January onwards

Temora NSW: 15 March – 1 September

Batchelor NT: 1 May – 1 June & 27 June – 1 August

Boyup Brook WA: 1 May onwards

Port Pirie SA: 31 May – 15 September

Humpty Doo NT: 4 July – 1 October

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.

When you can only afford 1 camp site, but the whole family is coming 🤗🤗

