

Willow Wren Caravan Club Newsletter 19 - 21 April 2024 – Cervantes Rally



On a lovely sunny autumn afternoon, our intrepid Willow Wren caravanners undertook the two or so hour trip north from Perth to meet at the RAC Cervantes Holiday Park.

The small town of Cervantes was named after a whaling ship that was wrecked nearby in 1844, which in turn was named after Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quixote. Cervantes, within the Noongar Yued region, was only recently established as a town when, in 1962, the government removed a parcel of land from the Nambung National Park. Today, the town has a layback holiday vibe whilst hosting fishing and growing tourism industries.

Our rally, with five vans attending, was officially opened at 5:00 pm on Friday 19 April amidst the usual joviality. Christine challenged us to a word quiz, with answers due the following day. Congratulations were extended to:

- Chris, celebrating her 21st (and a bit) birthday
- Christine and Colin, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary
- Kathleen and Blair, celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary
- Gloria and Joe, joining us for their third rally

Friday night was burger night, cooked on the park's very nice new barbecue facilities adjacent the huge new kitchen / dining / relaxation area and swimming pool. Tales of recent travels, family expansion, football and other important topics over fresh McWrens, washed down with an elegant sufficiency of various tipples, set the mood for a couple of games of left-right-centre. Sandy emerged victorious in both rounds, much to the delight of Gary with an eye on new gadgets for their van.

Saturday arrived as another glorious sunny day. Some of our group set off for a tour of the Pinnacles desert in Nambung National Park, only 30 minutes from Cervantes, whilst others remained to enjoy the park pool. A circular drive track around the desert allows views of the amazing natural limestone structures, all different, ranging to over



3m tall. Some are quite jagged, sharp-edged columns, rising to a point, while others are squarer, resembling tombstones. The yellow sands and pinnacles contrast sharply with the adjacent green vegetation and stark white sand dunes. The associated Discovery Centre houses some wonderful photographs and displays of the pinnacles, local plants and wildlife, together with information (two theories at least) on how the pinnacles were formed. Exit via the customary gift shop, trapping a few members.



We regrouped at the popular Lobster Shack for lunch. A good variety of food and drink in a layback atmosphere, adjacent to the beach, with in and outdoor tables. Seafood and particularly crayfish, are typical order of the day. One member achieved some notoriety for failing to observe the queue for ordering!! (noting though the view being obstructed by some very large aquariums, housing a range of aquatic organisms, serenely enjoying the view of the crowds bustling about).



After a long lunch, worthy of any high flying corporate bash, we repaired for a short refresh prior to convening for sunset thirst-quenchers and dinner, for those still wishing further repast. Marking of Christine's word quiz revealed all vans achieving perfect scores! The evening spent chatting, nibbling and occasional groans/cheers in response to the derby on the "box".

Our rally reached its conclusion at 9:00 am on Sunday 21st with farewells and best wishes until we meet again. Thank you Cervantes, whilst no windmills to tilt at, a relaxing and interesting time had by all.

Blair



MEMBERS UPDATES

From the Chair

I'm pleased to announce that our Club now has two new members - Gloria and Joe Fernandez. They had attended three rallies as visitors and submitted an application for membership at the recent Cervantes rally. As is required, a majority of the Committee members supported and approved the application. We welcome them both and look forward to seeing them at future rallies.

Colin and I will not be attending the May and June rallies. We look for to seeing members at the July rally in Toodyay.

Christine

Upcoming Birthdays in 2024



Happy Birthday and many happy returns to those celebrating birthdays in April

- ❖ Diane Silcock – 2nd May
- ❖ Jenny Potts – 14th May

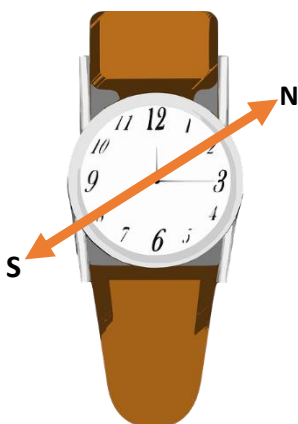
2024 Upcoming Rallies/Gatherings.

May : 17-19 - Bridgetown Caravan Park, 24431 South Western Highway, Bridgetown

June : 21-23 – Toodyay Holiday Park, Toodyay

July : 19-21 - Collie River Valley, Collie – to be confirmed

All Rallies are advertised on the website with full details on how to book



Some Trivia for you to ponder - Unconventional Compass

Did you know

Hold your watch horizontal to the ground, point the 12 towards the sun. Mid-point between the 12 and hour hand indicates the north-south line

(Courtesy of www.exploreoz.com.au)

Tales from our Travellers



Hello Wrens

On our very last day in Tassie it seems the perfect time to give an update on our trip and reflect on the “must do’s” and the experience of caravanning on the Apple Isle.

We were a little apprehensive prior to arriving, hearing horror stories of tight windy roads – just about as far as you can get from our WA straight, wide, open roads. Its true that the roads are different but Tassie caters for RV’s in lots of ways including ensuring there are lots of opportunities for slow vehicles to pull over on the big hills and big turning circles wherever you go. Don’t be put off by the roads,

everything will take longer to get to, but rest assured you will get there safely if you just go a bit slower than usual.

if you like a walk then Tasmania is your paradise. There are walks (often with a waterfall at the end) in what seems like every town. Our Tasmanian Parks pass was excellent value for money if you consider price per walk!

One of the most unexpected things was the regional variation, the climate and vegetation was very diverse, as was the regional produce, cheeses, wines, seafood, various fruits and veggies all made moving to a new town a joy to explore. We arrived at the end of the Cherry season and tasted the most exquisite cherries I’ve ever tasted, we’ve ended the trip in apple season and the crisp tree-ripened apples sent Rod into a food coma. The other thing that was a delight was the distinction in the seasons, the autumn colours change everything.

The waters around Tasmania were not what I expected, I guess I was imagining huge seas coming straight off Antarctica but what we found were largely pristine calm waters, hundreds of bays, inlets, islands within an island. There are loads of opportunities for touring on the water and we loved our trips on the Gordon River and around the Tasman Peninsular.

We chose to stay in Caravan Parks with access to 240v, basing ourselves for approximately a week in each spot, however, if you are looking for free or low cost options, in most towns there is an place to stay. In hindsight, the weather held up beautifully with enough sunlight to keep solar panels topped up.

Theres something for everyone here, we think our 14 weeks was about the right amount of time for us..... but we do have a list of things to come back to.

If you are interested in more detail you are welcome to look at my polar steps account [Helen's polar steps](#)

