

Willow Wren Caravan Club Newsletter

19-21 July 2024 – Collie River Valley Tourist Park Rally



Friday July 19th

This mid-winter rally saw a small number of 4 units (3 vans and 1 motorhome) turn up: Colin and Christine, Rod and Helen and Paul and Caroline, with one belonging to guest visitors Bob & Siew Parry. All rallyers were parked by mid-afternoon, followed by a warm welcome by Club President Christine at around 5pm. A BYO wine & cheese social was held at around 5:30pm at the nice camp kitchen, with plenty of wine and beer to warm us up, the warmth helped by several beanies/tuques.



Dinner was self-catered, followed by a brain teaser game called **Chronology** (thanks to Helen!). Winner of the jackpot (all 8 of the ante 20C pieces) this night was novice Caroline, who was the first to 10 points! A cold, sometimes rainy night was handled by a quick dash to our doonas.



Saturday July 20th

We awoke to a splendid cold sunny morn, and after leisurely breakfasts, we headed into Collie CBD on foot, about a 10 minute walk to see some murals. First stop was at the band-stand with an impressive large mural of “field mice” and gum nut flowers? Nearby was a beautiful metal sculpture of Flames, almost mirror finish on both sides! Also nearby was the **Collie Art Gallery** with impressive paintings by indigenous artists; see sampling below. Also in the Gallery was a room dedicated to ceramics where a small group allowed us to admire their works-in-progress and ask questions on their creations (see pics). The Gallery administrator/curator was very friendly and helpful; the Gallery is definitely worth a visit!



From there we walked to the local supermarket and bought some chocolates and odds and ends to consume later and saw a few more murals.



Lunch was held at **Harris River Estate**, a dozen kilometres or so outside of town. They offered a varied selection of tasting plates to share. We were joined earlier and at lunch by Jim and Lynn, who shared two important events with us: their **49th wedding anniversary** and Lynn’s birthday on this day! Hooray!



We headed back to the campground in time for the 2pm Club Executive Committee mtg, chaired by Christine and attended by Helen, done by Zoom technology with other execs.



Following this, we again walked into Collie CBD to experience and appreciate the many murals around town; we may have seen about 15-20, of the total 45 murals apparently scattered around town and nearby districts. Rod then took us to the State Centenary Park where we had a good sniff of the roses and other flowers, and a walk to the Collie River banks.



Dinner was around 6pm in the dining/games hall, shared with another large caravan club (very friendly people who even shared some lovely dessert with us), so we had a lot of body heat. The hall even had a pool table, though our group settled down to another session of fascinating **Chronology**; this night the jackpot winner was Paul, who attributed his success to a very lucky early card draw.

Sunday July 21st

After a windy and wet night, we were greeted with a partly-sunny but brisk morning. At around 9am, Christine chaired the Rally closing meeting, reminding us of events to come and wishing all safe travels back home.

On the way home, Paul and Caroline stopped at the large open-pit coal mine and saw the huge haul truck and a large excavator...hard to get up close due to soft roads and barriers.

Paul M



MEMBER UPDATES

From the Chair

Just a reminder to all our Club members to make sure details are provided of your expenditure for rallies that are attended. The Club website provides an easy option to record this information. This information is used to calculate the economic benefit that the caravanning community provides to the places we visit.

Upcoming Birthdays in 2024

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

- ❖ Joe Fernandes – 11 August
- ❖ Ron Fouche – 12 August
- ❖ Colin Steer – 12 August
- ❖ Geraldine Jackson – 24 August



2024 Upcoming Rallies/Gatherings.

August : 16-18 – Beverley Caravan Park, Council Rd, Beverley

September : 13-15 – Cee & See Caravan Park, 2 Grosvenor Rd East Rockingham

October : 18-20 – Back to Nature Caravan Park, 1775 Cowalla Rd, Wanerie



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



