

CMCA Solos Network Newsletter

MAY 2022

Dorian Marsland-Smith pr-media@solosnetwork.net 0448 881 268



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we head into the upcoming winter months many of us are enjoying extensive travel plans as we move around a country which is showing good signs of returning to a more normal life.

Many of you are planning to be in Gemtree shortly which will emerge to be a somewhat “up-market” bush camp with facilities not usually available at these types of events. Many of you are also signing up to get to WA for the spring rally in Leeman, this has the hallmark of being a great rally and the first time for many years the location will be right on the coast. This will no doubt provide for a more varied program with things to see and do.

For some 10 years now, we have enjoyed the services of Creative Secretarial Services (CSS) located on the central coast of NSW. CSS have over that time provided a permanent base and post office for a lot of the day-to-day Solos communication. Unfortunately, this service is no longer available to us, and the committee have had to make certain administration changes to accommodate this. Further details are in the Membership Report later in this newsletter.

The Cohuna Flower Power Rally has now come and gone. Rally Manager Lynn certainly had her challenges but with the support of her team the rally was a great success and most people appeared to enjoy themselves.

As mentioned at Cohuna, Rosemary Robinson, your Rally Liaison Officer, is already setting her sights on 2023 and into 2024 for the next round of rallies

As we talk about future rallies, I need to again remind all members of the problem we have in attracting volunteers with the right skills to assist with the running of these events. The seminar that was run at Cohuna on the subject of “Running a Rally” had a disappointing attendance. We are aware that there are many Solos, especially those joining recently, who have the skills to assist in many areas of running a rally, so please, if you can help in any way, think seriously about offering some of your time so that our rallies can continue to flourish.



Dave Applegate
President
0412 776 419
president@solosnetwork.net



Keep well and travel safe!

Cohuna Flower Power rally. Photo credit: Geoff Phillips

WANT TO CONTINUE YOUR SOLOS NETWORK MEMBERSHIP?

It's that time of year again – our Annual Admin fee of \$25 is due by 30th June 2022

BANK DETAILS:

Solos Network

BSB 062 545

ACC 1025 1109

Please put your full name as a reference on the bank transfer so we know you have paid.

Changes to the First Aid Team

Feedback from the Cohuna rally has led the committee to reconsider where this important role sits in our organisation.

The current role of First Aid Liaison Officer reporting to the committee has been changed and will now report directly to the Assistant Rally Manager (as it did some years ago), but now as a Coordinator role working with each Rally Team. The position will be permanent and will manage the ongoing affairs of the First Aid Team.

The current position description is being amended and will be available on the Solos Website **Forms/Info > online documents > rally position descriptions**. if you are interested in this position and require further information, please contact the Rally Liaison Officer:

Rosemary Robinson
vice-president@solosnetwork.net
or call 0416 180 546

SOLOS NEWSLETTERS

Don't forget, once our quarterly Solos newsletters have been distributed to everyone, they are also posted on our website (password-protected for members only), and in the Files section on the Solos Network Facebook page.

SOLOS WEBSITE UPDATE

We got Squatted!

Some time ago, we changed the address of our website. The ending used to be org.au, and then we changed it to solosnetwork.net. Eventually, the original name expired, and we thought that would be the end of it but cyber-squatters re-registered the name in the hope that we had just forgotten to pay the bill and would pay a ransom to get it back. Well, they're dreaming!

Just continue to use solosnetwork.net

Laugh more,
and live longer.

Geoff Phillips
SOLOS Webmaster



Flower Power Dinner Dance, Cohuna Rally

Gemtree Bush Camp



**Gemtree Roadhouse and Caravan Park,
6990 Plenty Hwy, Anmatjere, Northern Territory.
70ks nth of Alice then 77ks east off Stuart Hwy.**



A big welcome to you, especially those who are making the big trek to enjoy all that is Gemtree and outback Central Australia. I am sure you will have amazing stories to tell.

The Road in from the Stuart Hwy

The road in from the Stuart Hwy is sealed all the way through to Gemtree, although some sections are single lane. In these sections the shoulders are solid, there may be some small rocks but if you drive to the conditions you should be fine. Beware, this road is also used by the local station owners and you may come across some trucks and other vehicles.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN YOU CAMP ON THE PLENTY HWY. IT IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU AND OTHER TRAFFIC.

Staging Areas

Alex, the Manager of Gemtree, is looking into this for us and a decision will be made soon. So please keep tuned to the Solo Network Face Book page for further information.

Entering Gemtree

Our Check-in gate will open at **8.30 am on Sunday 15th May**. It will close between **12-1.00pm** for lunch, and at **4.00pm sharp** it will close for the day.

Keep in mind that the road and area you will be lining up in is also used by the locals. They may need to access the petrol bowsers and the Office area at the same time as us. Please be considerate and give these vehicles Right of Way.

Entry is by **SINGLE FILE** only. Once you have left the Plenty Hwy and enter the property, keep to the **LEFT** past the Bowsers and Office area, then up the embankment to the camp ground check-in point. There you will be checked off and ready to park up under the guidance of our Parking Team.

If you want to park together with your group of friends **YOU MUST COME IN TOGETHER**.

If you are coming in later than Sunday 15th please contact **Val Miton on 0425 880 105** so you can be met at the check-in point.

Water

Please ensure your **fresh water** tanks are FULL before entering Gemtree. The water is bore water and is drinkable but please use it sparingly. It is also recommended that you do NOT fill your holding tanks due to the high level of calcium in the water.

Grey water can be let out onto the ground. There is a Dump Point on site for **Black water**, please do not pour your cassettes into Gemtree's toilet septic system.

Food

Gemtree has a wonderful but small Café with the best Pies and Vanilla Slices ever (trust me on this), plus a small Menu to satisfy any hunger.

Our first night will be a Jaffle Night. Bring along your jaffle irons, your best jaffle recipes and some of your specific ingredients. Bread and Butter will be supplied.

Gemtree has an “award winning” Camp Diner and licensed Bar which we have booked for Wednesday evening. A two course meal costs \$25 and is payable to us at Gemtree. Gluten free and vegetarian options are also available.

Freshly baked Damper will be provided for our Morning Teas and again, feel free to bring along your favourite recipe and some of your specific Ingredients. Basic ingredients will be supplied.

We will also have a fire pit if you want to hone your outdoor cooking skills. Due to the dry conditions in the camp site, PLEASE no private fires are allowed.

Just a reminder that Gemtree is 140ks from the nearest shopping centre, although they do stock limited food supplies in the café.

Activities

You’ve all been on the road for some time, now it’s time to put your feet up and enjoy your time here - whether it’s catching up with fellow Solos, just chilling out around the pool, or walking the self-guided path around the property. We have organised some additional activities and Gemtree also have some activities you may want to participate in.

We have planned a Progressive Bush Rummy Competition so practise up on your card skills. If you don’t know how to play Bush Rummy by the time you arrive, we can offer some beginners’ lessons for you.

Unfortunately for us, the promised helicopter has been diverted to undertake other better paid duties but Alex is looking to secure light aircraft. So, fingers crossed for that option.

Some of our other activities include:

- *An Astrologist is coming so we can check out our multi-million star view*
- *Limerick and Poetry Workshop followed by a Poets’ Lunch*
- *Craft with Bethel*
- *A Fossicking Information Seminar*
- *Happy Hours with some entertainment*
- *A Pets’ Parade or something special for those who have pets*
- *A Market Morning*
- *Ukulele Jam Sessions*
- *Line Dancing, morning walks and our other usual activities are always programmed in but don’t be shy if you would like to suggest an activity we haven’t thought of yet. I’m always open to your suggestions and will endeavour to slot them into our program*
- *Also, there will be something special for our blokes.....*



Telephone/Internet Reception

Telephone and internet reception can be intermittent in the camp ground area. You may get better reception closer to the Office area, where there is also a free public phone. Optus users may get better reception than Telstra users.

Rubbish

Gemtree has a small on-site rubbish disposal area but they ask if we can burn all paper rubbish and, where possible, take our other rubbish with us.

There are recycle facilities for 10c returnable drink cans and bottles available on site.

'Solos Have Talent' Night

Our last night together would not be the same without the usual "Talent Night". At Gemtree we are having our "Solos Have Talent" (or not so much talent as the case may be), so get your acts together - no matter how bizarre - for a fun-filled night to wind up our great Bush Bash week.

I look forward to meeting you all and having a great time. Cheers!



Val Miton
CAMP HOST
0425 880 105
val.miton@gmail.com



Camp area



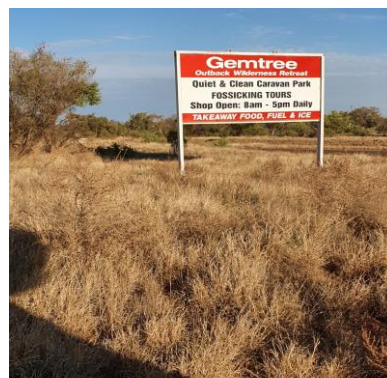
Swimming pool



Good menu



Golf course



The road in to Gemtree

FIRST AID

At a CMCA sanctioned rally, a first aid team will be operating on site and their contact details will be supplied in the information you receive upon entry. Put the first aid number in a prominent place. In an emergency, call 000 then notify the first aider on duty so they can help you until an ambulance arrives. If the situation is not life-threatening, call the first aid number, turn on your hazard lights and leave on until the first aider asks you to turn them off. If unable to get to your hazard lights, switch on any light that will help the first aider find you. Unfortunately, our site number system has many faults and numbers on the ground and in your windows are very hard to read while moving to your aid. It helps if your neighbours can turn their hazards lights on too.

Most people don't know what our role is as first aiders. We are all volunteers who are there to provide a first level of help. Our guidelines are to patch you up and keep you alive until an ambulance can arrive. We are not there to treat pre-existing injuries or illnesses. We are not paramedics, nurses or doctors.

A NOTE ABOUT GEMTREE BUSH CAMP

At Gemtree we will have some first aiders on site, but the bush camp is 138 km and over 2 hours away from a pharmacy, a doctor or hospital so if you're unwell and have trouble travelling, you shouldn't come. Please remember to bring all your medications and any medical supplies you may need. It will be warm up there, bring extra food and lots of drinking water. Dehydration is one of the main causes of most illnesses as the body starts to starve organs to keep the brain going. A quick test to see if you are dehydrated is to gently pinch some skin on the back of your hand. If it bounces back you may be fine, just drink at least 1ltr of water per day. Unfortunately, coffee and alcohol don't count and can even contribute to dehydration.

Have fun, keep safe, and hope to see you all at Gemtree or on the road somewhere.



**Glenn Watson
First Aid Team Leader
Gemtree Bush Camp**

COULD IT BE A FLAT BATTERY IN YOUR MOTORHOME KEY?

After attending the Cohuna rally for a week, I noticed the van did not unlock readily with the button on the key. Eventually it did not unlock at all, except by using the key manually in the lock.

After a long drive home, I thought the key would be fully charged, as the batteries in the key recharge whilst driving.

A couple of days later, I went to drive the van and it wouldn't start. Fearing a big bill for a new battery, starter motor or something major, I called my mechanic. He discovered the battery in the key was flat, as I had used it all week to lock and unlock the van when coming and going, but not driven it, so the battery in the key hadn't recharged. The mechanic recharged the key on a wireless charger and there were no more problems.



Diana Hanlon

Did you know?

This article is not only addressed to first-time Solos Network members, but to long-time members who have become familiar with our (SN) workings, but have forgotten the basics of Chapter and SIG gatherings.

If you are not “big” on CMCA rallies or chapter gatherings (some Solos say they feel like the ‘odd one out’ without a partner), then one of the Solos chapters may be for you. Solos chapters, like our rallies, aim to integrate everyone and to help newcomers feel like they belong rather than leaving it up to you to ‘break in’ to an already-formed group. The Solos have “bird” Chapters (Queensland: Cassowarys, Kingfishers, Rainbow Lorikeets, SE Qld Kookaburras; NSW: Blue Wrens and Eagles; Victoria: Eastern Rosellas; Tasmania: Shearwaters; WA: Western Willie Wagtails and Golden Whistlers).

Originally, CMCA chapters were formed for members who are not really interested in big-ish gatherings. They might be members who are still working, those who had finished their travels and wished to keep up with friends they had made, still others who may have lost a partner but had forged strong friendships within the CMCA. The “bird” chapters were formed for, by and usually organised by members of the SN. You don’t have to be a member of the SN to attend a Solos chapter meeting. ALL Chapters (and Special Interest Groups) make ALL CMCA members welcome.

A phone call or email to the organiser of chapter events will work wonders (information on Chapter Events is in the Wanderer). Your phone call will result in you being invited to attend. But, just in case that particular group doesn’t share your interests, try another. If you

do enjoy your meeting then ask to attend a further 2 or 3, then make a request to join. Don’t go in head down, b.. up and get involved the first day. Get to know and appreciate the workings of the group, the dynamics and peculiarities.

It is true that many Solo Networkers are not affiliated with chapters due to distance, health and a myriad of other reasons. However, when members meet regularly and enjoy each other’s company, they become supportive of each other and get far more value from their CMCA membership. Just to attend any Chapter meeting broadens the scope of the solo traveller, and to attend a CMCA rally as a Solo (with others if preferred) is an eye opener.

If you are not keen to become a “signed up” member of a particular chapter, you are still welcome to attend Chapter & SIG meetings. Attend several when you are travelling - you get information not always available to travellers, invitations to coffee or lunch, and you get to meet even more people.

Be mindful that Chapters/Special Interest Groups are not “mating services”, or a “companion-seeking travel service” - they are groups “stretching out the hand of friendship.”

GOOOOO Solos!



Elaine Bowles Solos Historian
0408 724 624
elaine.bowles37@gmail.com

HEALTH MATTERS

EMERGENCY+ Mobile Phone app



Emergency+ is a free app developed by Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners. The initial Emergency app was first launched in 2013, and was re-launched as Emergency+ in 2020. The app has been downloaded more than 2.2 million times and has provided assistance to people facing an emergency. It can be downloaded from the App Store for those with an iPhone, or from Google Play for those with an Android phone. It is best to install this app on the home screen of your phone for quick and easy use.

The app uses the GPS function built into smart phones. This means you can tell the emergency services operator your exact location which is displayed on the home screen of the app when you click on it. It shows the street location as well as the latitude and longitude coordinates. To make it even easier to tell the operator your location, beneath the latitude and longitude information you will see something that says 'what3words', with three words listed below this. Give those three words to the emergency services operator as this provides them with exact details of your location.

Additional features on the app are available by clicking on the menu icon at the top left of the app. You will find other important phone numbers by clicking on More Information, as well as some short videos on how to perform emergency CPR.

How to use the Emergency+ app in a life-threatening or emergency situation

- Stay calm and remove yourself from danger.
- Open the app by clicking on it.
- Tap on the 000 button on the Home screen of the app.
- A Telstra operator will ask if you need Police, Fire or Ambulance, and your location.
- When connected to the appropriate emergency services operator, they will ask for details of the situation. They will also ask for the location details listed on the Home screen of the app.
- When calling 000, remember to stay on the line, stay focused, and give information that is relevant to the situation. Don't hang up until the operator has all the information they need.

If you can't talk, ie a choking incident, a Telstra operator will put the call through to police. On some phones, but not all, they can pinpoint exactly where the call is coming from. Because the operator doesn't know what's going on, they will send the police for a welfare check rather than an ambulance. If you know you need an ambulance, text someone you know, saying 'ambulance asap' and give your exact address. It's a good idea to set this arrangement up with a few friends so they know what to do if they receive a text like this from you.

A call to 000 will get through, regardless of what phone carrier you are with. However, if there is no mobile coverage on any network, you will not be able to call the 000 service by mobile phone. Only a satellite phone will work in this situation. You can try using your UHF or VHF system on Channel 40 (truck channel) to get help.

Get familiar with the app by downloading it to the home screen of your phone and clicking through the different pages. Don't click on emergency numbers though; only call them in actual emergencies. 8

IS IT A STROKE?

I write this to make my friends aware of the debilitating effects of stroke and the symptoms to watch for. Early detection and medical treatment are the most important treatment for this health issue.

My personal experience is quite a story. I was an extremely fit 75-year-old, driving busses in a snow ski resort at Vail in Colorado, USA. I had skied 1.4 million vertical feet in 67 days the previous year, a record recognised by the ski lift company by a person my age. After the season finished, I travelled throughout America in my 5th wheeler prior to bringing it back to Australia with its tow vehicle. I now live in this full time travelling between rallies and my three daughters' properties.

One night while showering in the van I felt myself falling sideways. I managed to hold myself up and to stop myself from falling through the glass shower surrounds. It brought back memories of an Alfred Hitchcock movie I saw many years prior where someone was cut in half falling through a shower screen! Anyway, I managed to dry myself off and went to bed thinking I would be OK in the morning. The next morning, I got up and I kept on falling sideways into the van walls so called an Ambulance. It took an hour to show up and another hour and a half on a code one trip to get to Wangaratta Hospital. A CAT scan after the weekend break found a clot in my brain that had caused my mild stroke.

A week in hospital and another week in rehab, I was finally sent home. No driving for 6 weeks, doctors' visits and eye tests to get my heavy driver's licence back so I could legally drive my rig through a couple of states.

I still suffer the effects of the stroke. Slow thinking and speech occasionally, and some limitations on physical abilities which I find very frustrating. I was lucky not having more permanent disabilities and although this took place 18 months ago, I still am hoping for a full recovery. I did join a Stroke Association and found I was extremely lucky.

*I advise you all to watch for stroke symptoms, and **act fast**.*

Recognise STROKE Think F.A.S.T.

F
Has their **FACE** drooped?

A
Can they lift both **ARMS?**

S
Is their **SPEECH** slurred and do they understand you?

T
Call 000, **TIME** is critical

Stroke FOUNDATION

If you see any of these symptoms
Act FAST
call 000

Greg Smith
Past Assistant Treasurer
Solos Network





Setting the scene for **LEEMAN RALLY, WA**



I have now wrapped up the WA State Rally and can concentrate on the Solos Rally. We had a very successful State Rally even though it was small by normal standards. Everyone enjoyed themselves in the town of Westonia. So, if you get a chance when you are here, try and visit.

What will you find at the Solos Rally at Leeman– a very green oval for parking of smaller RVs and around the perimeter for larger/heavier RVs.

This is a NO POWER rally.

There are adequate showers and toilets inside the Rec centre.

Some new seminars and activities are planned (but I'm keeping those a secret for now).

How YOU can help. We need volunteers to help make the rally a success so please think about what you can do by looking on the Solos Website under the 'Forms/Info' for the Rally Position Descriptions. **I am looking for Coordinators** for Catering and Events, First Timers Team Leader, and other Team Leaders.

Can you run a Seminar, Craft Class or teach something? Then please fill in the Presenter Application or send me an email if you are unsure it is suitable.

If you are planning on coming to WA for our Solo Rally in Leeman, please register as soon as possible. Many of you understand how difficult planning can be if we don't know how many to cater for. Encourage everyone to REGISTER TO ATTEND and also to **VOLUNTEER**. We can only do a great job with your help and co-operation.

Margaret Cook
Rally Manager
solosrallymanager@yahoo.com



Leeman Rally Registration

<https://solosnetwork.net/FormsInfo/Online%20Rally%20Registration/index.php>

Volunteer Application

<https://solosnetwork.net/FormsInfo/Online%20Volunteer%20Apply/index.php>

Presenter application

<https://solosnetwork.net/FormsInfo/page-5/index.php>





CMCA Solos Network Rally 2022

29 August—4 September



LEEMAN WA

Leeman is a small coastal town in the Shire of Coorow in Western Australia and sits on turquoise waters, white sandy beaches and off-shore islands harbouring a great diversity of marine life. The picturesque coastline offers great conditions for an array of water activities, such as windsurfing and sailing and fishing.

The town was named after Abraham Leeman van Santwits, a Dutch sailor. He was second officer on the [Dutch East India Company](#) ship [Vergulde Draeck](#) (*Gilt Dragon*) which was wrecked in April 1656 just south of [Ledge Point](#),

What to see and do on the way or after the rally!

- WA Wildflower season starts in the north of the state in late July early Aug and builds through to late Oct in the south.
- Many Historic towns and buildings
- Indigenous culture
- Fishing on the coast
- Plantations –in the North—Fruit & Vegetables
- Wineries in the South
- Silos and other trails

What to expect at the Rally!

- Something a bit different
- A very **NAUTICAL** theme
- Welcome night WA
- Tours
- Dinner Dance theme is “Sailors, Pirates and Sea Life”
- Competitions
- Fun Games

SO COME AND JOIN US



freedom
of
choice

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Robyn Dodds
Membership Officer
0414 831 488
membership@solosnetwork.net



Wow, how good does it feel to be able to travel freely across our beautiful country. I can hear the red inland dirt calling me. At the time of writing this I have 10 days before I leave home for NT/WA. Hope to catch some of you on the road - I'm the one with the huge smile on my face!

This quarter we have 49 new members join our ranks, which brings us to a grand total 944. Many of these joined because they have met some of our Solos on the road and wanted to join in on the fun.

A warm welcome to our wonderful new members

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Anne Kuhl | Gerry Sapucci | Marion Gittus |
| Athol Webber | Gerry Waltzer | Maxine Moutin |
| Beryl Crane | Glenda Farrington | May Andrew |
| Beverley Carman | Graham Solomon | Michelle Robinson |
| Bill Harty | Grant Fortescue | Mick Bell |
| Carolyn Slevin | Gwenda Lawther | Pat Finnerty |
| Chris Morrish | Heather Davey | Patricia Hall |
| Chris Sanders | Henrik Forsti | Reit Heuzinkveld |
| Cleon Styles | Jim Baker | Richard Narbutas |
| Coralie Moore | John Lak | Robert Stevens |
| Don Taylor | Jose Vanderweide | Robert Watson |
| Elaine Rodoni | Julie Ritchi | Rosalie Ireland |
| Eleanore Fitz | Lorraine Stevenson | Sandra Bryant |
| Elizabeth Battersby | Lynne Bruncker | Steve Browne |
| Frankie Gregory | Mal Bosnjak | Susan Henderson |
| Geri Dobson | Margaret Scott | Sylvia Murphy |
| | Marilyn O'Connor | Tony Dewyse |

As Financial Members of the CMCA Solos Network you enjoy special privileges such as password access to the Members Only section of our website which includes our Member Contact List, newsletter, subsidised meals and activities at our Solos Rallies, itineraries for various popular road trips and exclusive use of the CMCA Solos Network Facebook page. It's up to you to take advantage of these special member benefits and to make the most of your membership.

Our Secretarial Service provider has taken up a new position and as of 1st April Solos Network no longer has a postal address. The Solos Committee is very grateful to Cathie O'Shannessy who has kindly agreed to take on some of the administration tasks.

Annual Admin fees can still be paid through your online banking or by attending your nearest bank. New member applications and rally registrations are on our website www.solosnetwork.net Should you require any help please feel free to phone me on 0414 831 488.

Final Journey

Sadly, the following Solos are no longer with us: Pamela Winter who joined 2013, Mollie Ryan who joined 2009, and Lorraine Ryan who joined 2018. Our thoughts are with their family and friends. Many of you will have happy memories of travelling with Pam, Mollie or Lorraine.

Mollie's family have donated her Cohuna rally fees to the Solos as Mollie passed away the day before the rally started.

Please, if you are aware of members who have passed on, would you let me know by text or email.

For all of you struggling with health issues, sending hugs & good thoughts your way.

Sandy Hardman, Treasurer
0417 732 759
treasurer@solosnetwork.net

TREASURER'S REPORT



Greetings fellow Solos!

I hope you are all safe and well and enjoying our freedoms and travels in this wonderful country of ours.

This report is a Statement of our Financial Position as at this point in time. Not a full financial year but about three quarters.

Bank balances as at 14th April 2022 - CBA General Account \$40,737.56. CBA Card Account \$3,023.28.

Profit and Loss shows a Profit of \$10,383.71 but Cohuna Rally shows a Loss of \$9,251.20.

Part of the reason for the Cohuna Rally loss was unfortunately lower attendance due to Covid concerns.

You will find the full Profit and Loss Reports at the end of this newsletter (Pages 21, 22, 23) for your perusal.

That's about all from me for the time being, if you have any questions about the numbers feel free to contact me directly.

Cheers. **Sandy Hardman, Treasurer**

CHAPTER REPORTS

NORTHERN RIVERS ROBINS

Mary Chapman, Secretary

January was a quiet month for the Robins following Christmas and the holiday season. However, members met for morning tea at different venues eg. Gold Coast, Kingscliff, Lawrence and Coffs Harbour. Due to the rain, dates had to be altered, but we managed to get together in our various locations. It was great to catch up and talk about our travelling plans for the year ahead.

In February we had a reprieve from the rain and our Chapter meeting was held at the Nymboida Camping and Canoe Centre. What an amazing place. The event was very well attended, and the sun shone on us during the 3 days. The Centre consists of 15 hectares on the Goolang Creek and is the longest White-Water Trail in Australia, encompassing the Nymboida, Mann and Clarence River systems. Kathleen (Events Coordinator) has a great repertoire of different games which we enjoyed and it was an amazing time of friendship, fun and laughter. From the Nymboida meeting, many Robins set out to travel to the Cohuna Solos Rally in Victoria. From all the photos and comments, it was a great event and enjoyed by all the members who attended.

The March Chapter meeting was to be held in Tyalgum but due to severe flooding and inaccessible roads the meeting was shifted to Brooms Head. It was a great time as the sun shone while we were there but it did not last long. Members within the Robins family have and continue to be affected by the floods and our thoughts and prayers are with them.



Morning tea at Lawrence



Rockin' Robins enjoying Cohuna Dinner Dance



Beautiful sunrise at Broome's Head

EAGLES

Lorraine Ellis, President

What an exciting couple of months the Eagles have had. We started 2022 with a trip to a new venue in the Upper Hunter Valley called Knorrit Flat Retreat. It was an epic journey to get there but well worth the trip. Eagles flew in from everywhere to celebrate our 16th birthday in February at Ferndale Park, below the Chichester Dam. Noodles were at the ready for the traditional Noodle races and a free Sunday birthday breakfast cookup. What a pristine area this is. Fabulous walks along the river and up to the Dam, not to mention the extraordinary wildlife.

Our intended March venue at the Wollombi Tavern disappeared underwater, so we went to Plan B. Good old Bulga Recreation Ground. The only venue that never goes under when everywhere else is flooded. Despite the weather, Eagles showed up in numbers and believe it or not, it remained fine during our stay.

Our April outing to the Lostock Dam Caravan Park is scheduled for next week, therefore will miss this edition of the newsletter. Keep safe everyone, until we catch up again.



Noodle race practise 🏄 🏄



Knorrit Flat Campground

WESTERN WILLIE WAGTAILS

Rosalyn Toop, Communications

20-24 January 2022 – Lake Navarino

15 of us braved 40 degree heat every day to turn up to this meet. Yes, it was hot. Did I say that? Those of us without air conditioning had difficulty sleeping but we persevered. Some bailed out before commencement and some left early. We did have the lake for relief but its position so far from the camp with slippery access did not make it accessible for all.

17-21 February 2022 – Goomalling

Only 11 managed to wend their way to Goomalling and it was HOT. Fortunately, and the reason we chose this venue at this time, we had the airconditioned camp kitchen which is quite a large space and we had the Shire swimming pool right next door to the Caravan Park. With the heat and the cool kitchen, the main activity was puzzles, games and cards with a jigsaw puzzle and others brought their books, into the cool camp kitchen for relief.

14-18 March 22 – Stockton Lake

12 of us turned up to Stockton Lake where we held a Noodle Race which was a hoot. We had 6 starters, Ron, Glenys, Margaret J, Chris, Louise and Lois. The winner was 87 year old Ron who put us all to shame. Well done all! Marg H got her brand-new RV bogged. Both Margaret H and J worked on it for about an hour before we were rescued by 3 kind blokes who had observed us from the other camping area across the lake and came over to lend a hand. No damage done except to Marg's mat which had been used in an attempt to get some grip under the wheels.

TASSIE SHEARWATERS

Judith O'Doherty, President

In February the Tassie Shearwaters travelled to the Hagley RV Farmstay in lieu of the State Rally being cancelled. It was a lovely venue catering for self-contained vehicles only. The hosts of the park, Annette and Steve, are very involved with guests as they are keen campers themselves. The venue has a huge shed with lovely couches, tv, library, games etc. Annette ran some quiz nights which were well received. They provide outdoor furniture as well. We were fortunate to be there whilst the blackberries were ripening so our Shearwaters collected buckets of them. There is also a walk around the property for guests with a quiz. The quiz involves photos on posts to identify famous landmarks around travel in Australia.

Our March camp was held at Pyengana, the famous town known for its dairy products and a pub which a beer drinking pig. The dairy was frequented for breakfasts, lunches, morning and afternoon tea and has a fabulous menu. The cheeses were well sought after as well. We enjoyed a lovely meal at the Pub in the Paddock on the Saturday evening. The pig had already been fed. We also had a trip to the nearby St Columba Falls which is one of the tallest in Tasmania at 90m.

April saw us in the historic town of Ross. While we were there the town was hosting a Fetters Festival which involved maypole dancing in the village green as well as a bush dance. We had a lovely meal at the Man o Ross hotel on the Friday evening which was well patronised with excellent meals.



Maypole dancing



Cheese wheels at Pyengana

RAINBOW LORIKEETS

Sue Edwards, Secretary

Our February meet in Kenilworth was well attended and we enjoyed visits to the Op Shop, Cheese Factory and cafe, as well as partaking of the goodies in the donut shop and the ice-cream shop. Dinner was at the Hotel which now has its own craft beer. The ladies always visit Johanna Designs, an amazing dress shop and we don't often come away empty handed. We had to cancel our March meeting at Aldershot Scout Camp due to the very wet weather.

In April we gathered at the Goomeri Caravan and Bush Camp – a magic spot bordering a creek and very well kept with great facilities. There is a camp kitchen, many fire pits and Manager Rob provided us with five different dampers which were delicious as we ate them with our happy hour drinks. He also entertained us around the fire with his poetry. Another night when we had our sausage sizzle, we were delighted to have Pianoman Dave playing his incredible music for three hours with many having fantastic fun dancing the night away. This was one of our best gatherings with beautiful walks each day, 'dunking' in the creek, cards, games, disc bowls and great company. (*cont'd over*)

This year has seen many special birthdays and, maybe some were missed, but Lorraine and Elaine both celebrated their 80th. Bill Morrow, a long time Solo and original Lorikeet turned 90 and had a small gathering of close friends toast him at Kilkivan.



Happy 90th
marvellous Mr
Bill Morrow!



Lorikeet Bathing Belles

EASTERN ROSELLAS

Gail Byrne, Secretary

Our first meeting of 2022, was held in early February at Lima South. Many new members and 1st timers, joined us on the way to the Cohuna Rally, and 65 vehicles attended. The usual activities were played as well as ukulele band practice. A café onsite which was kept busy during our stay. The weather was hot and dry for our stay so a dip in the pool was required. So, the answer to the question “How many Eastern Rosellas can you fit in a pool”? 33 see photo.

March meeting was held at Yallourn North Bowls Club. 21 members attended which enjoyed the usual walks, card and board games along with a couple of jigsaws, and barefoot bowls. A visit to the Brown Coal Museum where we learnt about the progress of open cut mining through the surrounding countryside and the subsequent dismantling of the whole State Electricity Commission owned township of Yallourn. A superb roast Chicken Dinner on the final night by the bowls club.

April meeting was held at the Broken Creek Bush Camp. 31 attendees including 4 new members. Walking, bike riding (for a couple of energetic souls), disc bowls, finska, table tennis, cards, board games and grocery grab provided fun and entertainment. Pizza night was a great success – delicious pizzas made by Doc & Cathy, on site. We utilised the large camp kitchen, library and lovely open fire.



Lima South pool, full of Rosellas



Yallourn North

KINGFISHERS

Lynne McKinnon, Secretary

January saw a good roll up for one of our favourite meetings of the year – Australia Day at Kingfisher’s Nest, Lorraine’s ginger farm at South Kolan. With Gary singing around the campfire on starlit nights overlooking the lake, fried scones, free mangoes and poetry by Rosemary, what more could you ask for? A reporter for the local Crush Magazine turned up to interview our members for a brilliant article and photos – check it out at the link: crushmagazine.com.au/wanderlust.

A smaller group enjoyed Wyper Park Scout camp in February, with Desley’s famous damper, made on the camp fire. We will be back to this great venue.

A number of Kingfishers set off for the Cohuna rally, while the rest of us met at Bundaberg RV Park in March, where we played games and cards and enjoyed a dinner out at the RSL club. We received the sad news that our beautiful, fun loving member Pam Winter had passed away on 6 March, from cancer. We had presented Pam with her OBE at a great gathering in August last year. She will be sadly missed by all.



RIP our beautiful Pam Winter



Australia Day at Kingfisher's Nest

KOOKABURRAS

Carel de Boer, President

January 2022: Our first camp for the year was held over the Australia Day week at “The Gorge”, Aratula. “The Gorge” is a private camping ground right alongside a creek which is actually a run off from Moogerah Dam. We had a flag raising ceremony for Australia Day and all enjoyed the companionship of the 4 days we were together. There are some nice walks through the bush alongside the creek, with some breathtaking views of the landscape for the area.

February 2022: Nimbin Caravan Park was our camp in February. This park is located in town and is next door to the Nimbin Public Pool and Bowls Club. This is always a great spot to stay especially if it is a hot day and we can cool off in the beautiful pool. Unfortunately, this time was the start of the big wet and rain bomb which was a worrying time. Most time was spent in the camp kitchen playing games and enjoying each other’s company with good food and BBQ.

We left on Saturday the 26th just in time before all the rains came and the roads were inundated with land slips and pot holes. All managed to get home before the deluge.

March 2022: We had a great camp at Clifton near Warwick, staying at the show grounds, Pony Club end. Our hosts for the week had organised some great activities for us and with the weather in our favour, we managed to visit the local Museum, Picture Theatre, novelty shops, and have dinner at one of the local pubs. Thanks to our local hosts who organised this camp. **(Photos over page)**



Kookaburras raising the flag on Australia Day



Our motorhomes at Clifton

GOLDEN WHISTLERS

Glenys Mills, Secretary

We have a busy year so far with 4 chapter meets by mid-April. In January, we had a great meet at our member, Tony's property, where we spent most of the time in his swimming pool due to our extremely hot weather here in the west over the festive season. Bike rides, winery visit and much fun and laughter was had by everyone.

In February, we went to Heron Point on the east side of the Mandurah estuary. Rosemary and Tracy made use of the easy access to the water and kayak and SUPs were put to good use. A peaceful place after the school holidays, after some problems getting bookings as the Murray Shire had just introduced internet bookings which tested some of us to a huge degree!!!!!! But a great group of 22 came and had a great time together with a couple of new games which became a real challenge. Great stop over for those from the east needing a few of quiet days during the week when you come to WA.

In March, we made the annual pilgrimage to Stockton Lake near Collie where we had another 20 or more come. Once again, during the week, as that is not a place to go on the weekends – it is the local playground for local residents. It is a disused coalmine from many years ago. Great place to swim and use floaties, noodles, kayaks and SUP's!

In April, we had our State Rally at Westonia – a very welcoming small town. The numbers were down – possibly due to Covid, high fuel cost and the distance to get there (just north east of Merredin on the Great Eastern Highway}. However, many of us dressed to the Pioneering Days rally theme, including for our dinner, supplied by the locals. The Westonia Council were very helpful with information, facilities and good will. Great State Rally.

We look forward to meeting up with many of you, here in the west in August at Leeman.



Pioneering days in WA



Stockton Lake, Collie

CASSOWARYS

Jean Rowley, Public Relations

Well St. Patrick's Day was certainly celebrated in style by the Cassowarys and friends attending Bivouac Junction Bush Camp near Charters Towers. What a stunning site Helen and Sue chose to host us - beautiful pool, great camp kitchen, lovely river and stunning views. The owner put on a beautiful BBQ in this spectacular location. Games were hotly contested, our usual Cassowary 50 cent game was a hoot, especial when the Tropical Coast Wanderers from Townsville joined in the fun. A fantastic fun filled few days. Thank you everyone, and safe travels to all.



Let the games begin!

EDITORS NOTE: Is that Gordon Simons standing inside a table? Great happy hour trick! Had to look very closely to see that it is a bucket on the table, not Gordon's lovely blue shorts. Then it all made sense 😊



Beautiful gathering area at Bivouac



Thanks to all contributors to this newsletter. SOLOS, please contact me with any feedback or suggestions. Constructive feedback is always welcome 😊



Dorian Marsland-Smith
PR/Media Officer
0448 881 268
pr-media@solosnetwork.net

Profit and Loss

CMCA Solos Network

For the period 29 September 2020 t

Rally & General is Cohuna 2021/11, Cohuna 2022/03.

| | 29SEP2020-14 MAR2022 |
|---|----------------------|
| Trading Income | |
| Rally - Events, Travel & Tours | 10,889.00 |
| Rally - Onsite Income | 1,462.75 |
| Rally - Registrations | 7,230.00 |
| Rally - Site Fees Powered | 5,130.00 |
| Rally - Site Fees Unpowered | 13,650.00 |
| Total Trading Income | 38,361.75 |
| Cost of Sales | |
| Rally - Events - Decorations - | 563.40 |
| Rally - Other Costs | 112.57 |
| Rally - Accommodation | 127.80 |
| Rally - Admin - Fuel | 386.06 |
| Rally - Admin - Hire of Vehicles, Courtesy Bus etc | 2,310.00 |
| Rally - Admin - Office PSP | 1,055.33 |
| Rally - Admin - Phone / Internet Costs | 1,055.00 |
| Rally - Admin - Welcome Packs and 1st Timer Costs | 1,054.00 |
| Rally - Admin -Prizes and Presentations | 135.00 |
| Rally - Catering - Meals | 13,839.00 |
| Rally - Catering - Morning & Afternoon Teas | 211.55 |
| Rally - Catering - Volunteers, First Timers and VIP's | 1,806.37 |
| Rally - Events - Entertainment | 1,200.00 |
| Rally - Events - Other Costs | 950.00 |
| Rally - Events - Tour Costs | 6,446.00 |
| Rally - Local Donations | 1,000.00 |
| Rally - Site - Cleaning, maintenance and repair costs | 2,096.75 |
| Rally - Site - Signage and banners | 330.00 |
| Rally - Site - Equipment Hire | 1,575.00 |
| Rally - Site - Venue Charges | 9,207.00 |
| Rally - Site- Expenses Other | 676.20 |
| Rally - Travel Expenses | 1,475.92 |
| Total Cost of Sales | 47,612.95 |
| Gross Profit | (9,251.20) |
| Net Profit | (9,251.20) |

Profit and Loss

CMCA Solos Network

For the period 1 July 2021 to 14 April 2022

1JUL2021-14APR

Trading Income

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Admin Fees - Members 2023/24 | 225.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2017/18 | 15.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2018/19 | 25.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2019/20 | 94.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2020/21 | 25.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2021/22 | 22,025.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2022/23 | 1,550.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2024/25 | 125.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members 2025/26 | 25.00 |
| Admin Fees - Members, Initial Setup Cost | 975.00 |
| Rally - Events, Travel & Tours | 10,889.00 |
| Rally - Onsite Income | 1,462.75 |
| Rally - Registrations | 10,365.00 |
| Rally - Site Fees Powered | 7,625.00 |
| Rally - Site Fees Unpowered | 19,268.00 |
| Sales - Merchandise Non Rally | 163.00 |
| Sales - Merchandise Rally | 1,152.00 |
| Total Trading Income | 76,008.75 |

Cost of Sales

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Cost of Sales - Merchandise | 1,494.51 |
| Rally - Events - Decorations - | 563.40 |
| Rally - Other Costs | 568.96 |
| Rally - Accommodation | 127.80 |
| Rally - Admin - Fuel | 386.06 |
| Rally - Admin - Hire of Vehicles, Courtesy Bus etc | 2,310.00 |
| Rally - Admin - Office PSP | 1,055.33 |
| Rally - Admin - Phone / Internet Costs | 1,420.00 |
| Rally - Admin - Welcome Packs and 1st Timer Costs | 1,054.00 |
| Rally - Admin -Prizes and Presentations | 187.24 |
| Rally - Administration | 280.00 |
| Rally - Catering - Meals | 13,839.00 |
| Rally - Catering - Morning & Afternoon Teas | 211.55 |
| Rally - Catering - Volunteers, First Timers and VIP's | 1,806.37 |
| Rally - Event - Transport | 89.60 |
| Rally - Events - Entertainment | 1,200.00 |
| Rally - Events - Other Costs | 2,058.99 |
| Rally - Events - Tour Costs | 6,446.00 |
| Rally - Local Donations | 1,000.00 |
| Rally - Site - Cleaning, maintenance and repair costs | 2,096.75 |
| Rally - Site - Equipment Hire | 1,575.00 |

**1JUL2021-14APR
 2022**

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Rally - Site - Venue Charges | 9,207.00 |
| Rally - Site- Expenses Other | 676.20 |
| Rally - Travel Expenses | 1,475.92 |
| Transport of Storage Boxes | 2,052.50 |
| Total Cost of Sales | 53,182.18 |
| Gross Profit | 22,826.57 |
| Other Income | |
| Other Income - Donations / Gifts | 15.00 |
| Other Income - Mystery | 40.00 |
| Total Other Income Operating | 55.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Advertising & Marketing Fees | 1,210.48 |
| Bank Fees | 101.38 |
| Computer and Printer Expenses & Consumables | 597.00 |
| Computer Software Subscriptions | 685.22 |
| Computer Web Development and Hosting | 368.86 |
| Costs -Other -Bush Camps | 666.29 |
| CSS - Admin Costs + Other | 1,980.00 |
| CSS - Quarterly Newsletter Exp | 840.60 |
| CSS - Welcome Packs | 1,227.00 |
| First Aid - Supplies | 113.30 |
| First Aid - Training Courses Reimbursed | 554.00 |
| Postage | 312.85 |
| Sound Equipment | 460.55 |
| Square Card Fees | 140.33 |
| Telephone & Internet Expenses | 3,240.00 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 12,497.86 |
| Net Profit | 10,383.71 |