



Central stage

The beautiful Nyngan Riverside CP thumped during the Australian CamperTrailers fifth national meet.

The Australian CamperTrailers Group's fifth national meet was held at the Nyngan Riverside Caravan Park from October 5-9, 2009. Nyngan lies at the junction of the Mitchell and Barrier Highways, 166km west of Dubbo on the NSW Central Plains.

Over 225 campers, arriving with 90 camper trailers, caravans and tents, enjoyed the spring sunshine despite reports of snow further south with strong winds and rain on the NSW coast. This was the biggest CamperTrailers Group national meet to date with members travelling from every eastern state, Tasmania and SA.

Bogan Shire Mayor Ray Donald, who was among the guests at the opening ceremony, welcomed everyone to Nyngan, and Nyngan Riverside CP owner Dione Carter wished members a great week ahead. Members Joy and Dave Wilkinson then broke the ice hosting a "Getting to Know You" session for adults and kids.

GADGETS OVERLOAD

The camper trailers and camping workshops hosted by members were a focal point of the meet. Workshops included a presentation

on a hotly debated and frequently misunderstood topic: 12V power, solar panels and batteries, by CamperTrailers Group member and owner of Dynamic Solar Solutions Jamie Hazelden. Jamie's second workshop discussed understanding 240V inverters.

CTA's David Cook conducted the first camper trailer walkabout at a national meet. David invited members to speak on what they like about their campers, points they didn't like, modifications they'd done and what they'd like to do to make camping all that more enjoyable. Many camper trailers had been built by their owners.

Carlisle Rogers, editor of CTA, returned with tips on getting the best from your digital camera, following last years' talk on submitting articles for the magazine.

Kevin Beckwith, Ron Dickson and Alan Dunshea presented a UHF, HF and Amateur Radio workshop. Kevin explained how UHF is used to communicate between co-travellers and fellow road users, and discussed which aerials were suitable for what terrain.

Ron explained how to set up a UHF radio in

others, while supporting their communities with emergency and disaster communications where necessary.

Brian Sommerville, owner of GPGOZ, is a keen member of the Australian CamperTrailers Group. We were very fortunate to have him present to us what's new in the GPS world. Brian also held a GPS event during the week.

George Mavros demonstrated a prototype version of the Royden Anchor. The pipe and ground-mounted auger can be used as an anchor point for winching a bogged vehicle, to secure your solar panel, as a light pole stand or to secure a steel chest for storing valuables.

I held my camper trailer wheel bearing workshop once again, and oversaw Dave Wilkinson as he tackled the job himself. Maintaining your own camper wheel bearings is something anybody can do.

ACTION FOR ALL

My wife Carol, a trained Mary Kay consultant, invited 30 women and girls to participate in a pampering session. After breaking the ice with a few games, the group gave themselves facials and sampled hand-smoothing treatments.

Donna Zwerus demonstrated the Dream-Pot, which uses a thermo cooking process whereby the meal is partly cooked on the stove with residual heat doing the rest.

Jill Skinner showed us how to cook traditional camp fare in a Cobb Cooker, normally reserved for a camp oven or a gas stove. I held two early morning tai chi sessions, with a warm up and gentle, low impact exercises.

The kids didn't miss out, with sisters Jessica and Sherri Cox and mum Sue hosting a Scoobie workshop, where kids plaited plastic string into various objects.

Sharon Wheatley held an animal

beadies workshop where the kids threaded coloured glass beads onto fishing line to make a variety of shapes. She also held a damper on a stick afternoon.

David and Jan Cook held a trivia night assisted by Dave and Joy Wilkinson. The event was well attended and a great success. There was plenty of friendly rivalry between the tables, as teams vied for a winner's trophy.

The first annual "soft floor versus hard floor" billy-can bowls competition was played at this year's meet. Kevin presented the hard floor owners with the winner's trophy.

Members bought and sold unwanted camping gear at the Cash, Trash and Swap event during happy hour one afternoon.

One of the funniest events at a CamperTrailers Group national meet is the "Tame the Toilet Tent Competition" at happy hour. Members are timed folding a change tent back to pack away shape with the fastest the winner. This year's winners were reigning champions Gary Roberson with daughter Allie. The kids' section was won by Allie Roberson,

"JACK CARTER, OWNER OF THE NYNGAN RIVERSIDE CP, HOSTED HELICOPTER RIDES"

Jarrod Delatorre and Suzanna Lawler.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Wednesday was Nyngan community day. Members took advantage of the free boat rides on the Bogan River and the horse drawn wagon rides through the park and into the nearby Lions Park, provided by the Nyngan Riverside CP. Some drove the self-guided Cobb & Co Heritage Trail, through Girilambone, Coolabah, Buckingham and Willie Retreat. Others visited the volunteer-run, Mid-State Shearing Shed in Nyngan. It's a replica shearing shed and museum dedicated to the people of the shearing industry. The museum pays tribute to the shearers, shearers' cooks and contractors. There is also a variety of souvenirs and locally made craft items for sale.

Bogan Community, Tourism and Business Group cooked breakfast Wednesday morning to raise money to promote the local tourist trade. The CamperTrailers Group raised \$505. Well done.

During the day, co-owner of the Nyngan Riverside CP Jack Carter flew in to host helicopter rides, and Dione Carter organised a live performance by middle of the road singer/guitar artist Tony Hunt on the Wednesday evening. The hat was passed around and



Top: Over 225 campers enjoyed spring in Nyngan.

Middle pic: Daily activities provided action and fun for all age groups.

Above: Dave and Jan's trivia night proved a great success.

your vehicle and the costs involved, including club memberships where you can use channels allocated to that club.

Alan gave us a personal insight on Amateur Radio. He explained how operators enjoy world-wide wireless communications with



Left: Jack Carter hosted helicopter rides. Below: Jamie Hazelden talks about solar. Bottom: CTA's Carlisle Rogers doing a workshop on better photography.



the CamperTrailers Group managed to raise a further \$616 in donations for the Bogan Community, Tourism and Business Group. Our own 16-year-old Jessica Cox was also coaxed into singing a few songs.

During one of Tony's breaks, several items which had been given to us by members of the group were auctioned. \$320 was raised for the Nyngan Preschool.

At the closing ceremony, Skye Dedman, the director of Nyngan Preschool drew four winning tickets from the raffle held during the week. The four commercial-grade padlocks and vinyl-coated coil cables were donated by members Alan and Amanda Haworth. We managed to raise \$400 for the preschool via the raffle.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

A couple of special awards are nominated during the week. One of these is Spirit of the Group or someone who best represents the group over the week. This year's winner was Carolyn Davis. Carolyn loves experimenting with her camp cooking, and presented everyone around her tasty morsels, passing tasting plates around the camping ground.

Then there is the Nyngan

Shenanigans for the funniest or most embarrassing moment during the week. This year's title went to Alan Randahl who was dlobbered in by his wife. He was draining engine oil when the sump plug rolled again. Hearing his cries for help, Mary Anne raced over to find Alan with his finger stuck up the hole, scrambling for the sump plug, which had rolled down the slope out of reach.

Nyngan Riverside CP owners Jack and Dione Carter have done a remarkable job renovating the park since acquiring it 18 months ago

(www.nynganriverside.com.au). There was plenty of activity in preparation for our arrival. Extra power outlets were installed as well as a new amenities block on the river flat. A big thanks goes to the friendly staff for making our stay enjoyable I'm sure the idyllic riverside setting will attract travellers for more than just an overnight stopover in the future.

Visit www.campertrailers.org ■



Left: Plenty of space is available for you to stretch out and relax.
Above: The idyllic riverside setting is perfect for camper trailers.



GOURMET GETAWAY KITCHEN



AWARD WINNING



OFF-ROAD

Rob, Judy & Greg Heaslip
Cnr Pt Wakefield & Burton Rds,
Burton SA 5110
Phone 08 8280 9488
Mobile 0409 099 622
Email info@heaslipcampers.com.au

AWARD WINNING

● **KITCHEN TOP CAMPERS**

● **TRAY TOP CAMPERS**

● **CAMPER TRAILERS**

www.heaslipcampers.com.au

HEASLIP CAMPERS