



# Wanderers set up for four-day festive fun

THEMED entertainment on a four-day camp will be hard to beat for next year's Wide Bay Wanderers Christmas party.

The Wide Bay Wanderers, 11th Chapter CMCA, celebrated their Christmas party at the Biggenden Showgrounds in early November last year.

"Forty-one motorhomes attended with 81 members and guests ready to participate in whatever the hosts, Alan and Lesley and Noel and Jinny, had arranged," WBWMC president Lynette Hough said.

"Our parkologist, Garry, made sure all were parked correctly as per CMCA rules – well done.

"Disc bowls, holy bowls and crazy bowls were well attended by those hoping to win the prize of wooden bowls filled with Christmas lollies, donated and made by our Roy.

"Various types of cards and a new dice game, Bugs, was played in the cool of the hall."

Ms Hough said Friday night was Depression night. "Members dressed down to fit that era including a swaggie with a Matilda on his back and a suspicious hank of wool showing," she said.

"The three-course dinner, made and cooked by the hosts, was dished up at Mrs Hardup's Soup Kitchen with

enamel plates and mugs set onto the newspaper-covered tables.

"Goods and chattels of those years was used to decorate the stage, many were heard to mutter, 'Crikey, my word they had it tough in those days'.

"The sing-along was enjoyable as we understood and knew (mostly) the words to the songs.

"Allan and Lesley gave a very interesting talk and slideshow of their recent New Zealand motorhoming holiday, with advice on places and budget saving."

The motorhome owner said Biggenden stores were kept busy.

"Food establishments and shops were kept busy, with members walking into town

for brekkie, the daily papers, lunch, the museum and markets were also keenly attended," Ms Hough said.

"The huge, delectable Christmas cake, made, iced and decorated by our Coralie, was served for Saturday morning tea – many asking for seconds.

"The theme for Saturday night, Glitz and Glamour of the 1930s, saw our members dressed in their finest for that era.

"Feather boas and ribbon headbands, satin and lace, pearls and glittering bits and bobs were evident, gangsters and their ladies, some with metal in their

garters, were seen slinking about.

"Bess stole the show in her lovely black sequined gown. The excellent song and dance music by Bruce McGilvery was in keeping to the night's theme."

Punch and nibbles set the tastebuds for the delicious three-course Christmas dinner catered by the Dallarnil State School P&C Association.

"After the meeting and the AGM on Sunday morning, at which Terry and Brenda were thanked for their four years as secretary and treasurer, the cheerful members departed knowing the grounds, hall and amenities were left clean and tidy," Ms Hough said.

Those interested in joining the Wide Bay Wanderers can phone Carol Green on 5872 5897.



**STAR: Wide Bay Wanderers' Mavis Goddard and Charlie Chaplin, AKA Doug Goddard, on the half moon.**



**SWEET: Coralie Larsen cuts the Wide Bay Wanderers Christmas cake, which she made, iced and decorated.**

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



# Jump on RV bandwagon

## INSIDE COUNCIL

With Cr Sharon Griffiths  
Portfolios: Organisational  
Efficiency and IT, Glasshouse



IT was reported to council that there are 500,000 motorhomes and caravans registered in Australia, which is an increase of 100,000 in around a year.

This is a growing trend. The survey carried out by council shows that 42 per cent of travellers are opting for free-camping with no intention of camping in a caravan park.

Recently Kendall and Wauchope were approved as RV-friendly towns. As an RV-friendly town there are several benefits, but essentially it is a marketing exercise, welcoming motorhome and caravanners and the 66,000 members of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) which supports the RV-friendly towns programme.

The CMCA advises members of the clubs, showgrounds, tourist facilities, health services, mechanical, grocery pick

up and parking available in the area via its website and newsletters.

Marketing consultants advised that Burran Junction became RV friendly and 200 vehicles were parked. Burran Junction is located out from Wee Waa. Do the calculation 200 x \$100 equals \$20,000 per week which was not received previously.

When council spends funds to drive tourism what and how is the calculation done to determine the value

of opportunity? The outlay for council is around \$7000. If the 500,000 registered vehicles passed through the area over the next five years and 42 per cent (survey of those who will not stay in a caravan park) provided a cash injection, the amount would equal \$21 million.

Even 10 per cent over the next five years can amount to a reasonable return to the local area. Any injection of cash will provide employment and assist tourism and retail to sustain. Locals and internationals of varying ages are choosing this travel option.

Thank-you to residents for continuing to report to council on issues to work towards improving future council processes.

Wishing you a prosperous and happy new year.



# Motorhomes ready to roll in

By **Elle Vince**

MURRAY Bridge will become a hive of activity in April when an additional 1400 people buzz through the rural city as it hosts the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's (CMCA) 29th Anniversary Rally.

The week-long event, which rolls into town on April 19, will include tours throughout the region, seminars, a photography competition, craft workshops, disc bowls, dance classes, happy hour frivolities, shopping trips and a rally ball - just to name a few.

A rally open day will also be held on Saturday, April 25 - Anzac Day - where the community will be invited to attend and acknowledge the day's 100th anniversary before sorting through the hosts' markets.

Murray Bridge Rally manager David Fricke said as well as being a lot of fun, the event would be of great economic value to the rural city.

"It's like having an additional 800 households within the town that need food, fuel, clothing etc," he said.

"Businesses providing meals, groceries, fuel, clothing ... will see some benefit.

"Most motor homes have small fridges which means

members have to shop regularly; the longer the stay, the greater the rise in revenue."

About 800 motorhomes are expected to squeeze onto the grounds at Unity College, but if numbers happen to exceed that figure an overflow ground will be established.

"If we get more we will find other places to host them," Mr Fricke said.

"There will probably be about 200 motorhomes here the week before (the rally) setting up for it, but the main body will be here for about a week.

"Murray Bridge will be on display to around 1400 potential tourism officers as word of mouth information about the rally is discussed at (CMCA rally) happy hours around the country."

The rally will be a culmination of more than 12 months worth of work for organisers David and Lyn Fricke and the Rural City of Murray Bridge.



**Ready for action:** Murray Bridge Rally managers Lyn and David Fricke spend a few days in their motorhome at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds while organising the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's 29th Anniversary Rally.