



Motorhome rally heading to Wagin

**By RON WALSH,
CMCA Solos Network**

THE CMCA Solos Network Rally is only 12 weeks away.

The rally team has been working hard to include many local groups in its catering requirements and other activities to be held.

This way, the team will be putting money back into the local community, which is one of its main aims.

However, the CMCA are keen to introduce its members to sheep dog trials but to date have not been able to secure anyone willing to put on a demonstration. It is looking for anyone in the community who would be willing to put on a display for its members.

The CMCA is also keen to have a dog agility demonstration and if anyone in the community can help they should call 0417 622 624.

The solo network is made up of primarily single men and

women who travel alone in their motorhomes and campervans, on their own or in a group, enjoying friendship, camaraderie and fellowship together.

Many live permanently on the road while others have a base to return to.

The group has many solos already on the road to WA, with many currently heading down the west coast and across the Nullarbor.

They will be descending on Wagin for a week of fun and games from October 12-19 and then to Albany for their national rally later in the month.

The CMCA solo network hopes the community will make everyone welcome and looked forward to meeting as many locals as they can.



Motorhomes: An image of what to expect in Wagin this October.



Tourism boost

WAUCHOPE has opened its doors to recreational vehicles such as motorhomes, campervans and caravans after being announced as an RV Friendly Town.

The new status is expected to encourage more tourists wanting to explore the Hastings.

Having met the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's guidelines, Kew and Kendall have also joined the initiative.



RVs ready to rumble at expo

Adventure and Motoring Expo kicks off

Meghan Harris

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A RANGE of elite caravans are making a guest appearance at this year's Queensland Adventure and Motoring Expo.

The brand new caravans were transformed by River City RVs to appear as on-site homes for the teams on the television series, *Reno Rumble*.

Event organiser Bob Carroll said it was a real coup to have the specially prepared vans in Toowoomba.

"The television series on the WIN network was extremely popular across the Darling Downs and I'm certain that a lot of people will want to come and have a look behind the scenes and meet the people who were in charge of the transformation," Mr Carroll said.

The three-day expo kicks off at the Toowoomba Showgrounds

today at 9am.

The event will showcase everything from camping gear to motoring and off road accessories right through to the very latest and most expensive motorhomes available.

Mr Carroll said he was expecting more than 15,000 people to attend the expo.

"It's a huge attraction for Toowoomba and we have people travelling from all over the country to pay us a visit," Mr Carroll said.

"We have at least 30 people already camped on our-site.

"There used to be an assumption that caravans were for grey

nomads but that's changing.

"With all the new innovative products, I think people will be pleasantly surprised with what they'll find at the expo," he said.

One of the other quirky products to go on show will be the new release inflatable camping tent from Extreme Marquees which takes all the guess work out of

setting up your camp site.

There is more than \$16,000 worth of prizes to be won, including a camping and outdoor adventure

package from Anaconda, fishing gear at the Shimano Fishing Show, camp ovens and cook books as well as a North Queensland Holiday.

For more information visit adventureexpo.com.au.

QUEENSLAND ADVENTURE AND MOTORING EXPO

- Open today and tomorrow from 9am-5pm
- Open Sunday from 9am-4pm
- Adults \$10, seniors \$8, children free with adult
- Free parking



GUEST APPEARANCE: Bob Carroll (left) and Reno Rumble RV creator James Creswick are looking forward to giving visitors a sneak peak into the RVs used in the popular television series.

PHOTO: NEV MADSEN



We're getting RV'd over

WHILE plans for Echuca's first RV park have failed to get off the ground, up the road in Gannawarra Shire it is a different story.

Earlier this week a second centre in the shire became an RV Friendly Town.

Murrabit was granted the accreditation by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia and follows in the path of Leitchville, which received the title at the end of June.

It comes just days after an application for a 15-site park in Echuca was blocked by Campaspe Shire council.

Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee president Vince Maher said the community was set to reap the rewards from the RV Friendly title.

"We expect an increase in the numbers of travellers stopping in

town and spending money whether at the local store, the Busy Bees gift shop or visiting the market," he said.

Gannawarra Shire's economic development officer Roger Griffiths said council has agreed to allow street parking adjacent to the Murrabit Market site, making it suitable for motorhomes, campervans and caravans.

"Unlimited short and long-term overnight parking is also available at the Murrabit Recreation Reserve, along with the free public dump point and access to portable water," he said.

Moira Shire has four towns, while Campaspe and Murray Shires have only been able to manage one each.

Echuca-Moama businessman Peter Hill is behind the proposed

RV park for Echuca. He said it was the fastest-growing tourism segment in Australia and would be a great investment for Echuca.

Proposed for 286 Anstruther St, the park would also include an amenities block featuring showers, toilets and washing and ironing facilities.

Mr Hill said he planned to address some of the concerns raised by council officers with his proposal and re-submit it at a later date.



RV ready: Vince Maher, Murrabit Recreation Reserve committee and Gannawarra Shire economic officer Jodie Hartley.



Nomadic army on the march North

TOURISM | Domanii Cameron

CARAVANNING 'grey nomads' are flocking North in one of the best seasons operators have seen in years, providing a welcome boost to the Hinchinbrook economy.

A total of 492 vehicles pulled up at the Tyto RV park between April 1 and July 29, with each group spending an average of \$217 in the shire.

South Australian couple Barbara and Henry Hindmarsh, who make an annual pilgrimage to escape the southern chill, said this was the first time they had stopped in Ingham.

"We haven't been to Ingham before and it's gorgeous," Mr Hindmarsh said.

"The weather is beautiful."

The couple plan to spend a week exploring the region from their base at the Palm Tree Caravan Park.

"We're going to head to Wallaman Falls and we've been to Tyto which was great," Mrs Hindmarsh said.

"We may check out the Italian Festival this weekend too."

Wanderers owner Genevieve Castles said 2015 had been a busy year for their park.

"There's been a lot of sites turning over and we have noticed a lot of short teemers staying here," Mrs Castles said.

"Word of mouth in our industry is king, you're doing your utmost to promote the area and promote the atmos-

phere.

"We love our winter it's such a great time of year."

Palm Tree Caravan Park co-owner Belinda Stanes, who recently took over the facility, said permanent residents had stated it was the busiest season they had seen for years.

"We've only been here for about a month but there's definitely a lot of travellers coming through," Mrs Stanes said.

The Tyto RV Park, which opened last year, has become a popular stop off point for travellers, Councillor Lawrence Molachino said.

He was amazed at the number of travellers seen walking

through the Tyto precinct in recent weeks.

"I drove in to the area late Monday afternoon and there were 13 vans and I thought that's really great," Cr Molachino said.

"People were out walking around having a good look."

The park is an economic option, charging travellers just \$10 to stay for 48 hours, with the hope they will spend money elsewhere in the community.

"When we were trialling the park last year it was more of an experimental thing but it's going really well now," Cr Molachino said.

Word of mouth in our industry is king, you're doing your utmost to promote the area and promote the atmosphere

Genevieve Castles

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RELAXED: South Australians Barbara and Henry Hindmarsh enjoying a week in Ingham.

Picture: DOMANII CAMERON