



## Freedom camping an issue for Mareeba

Mareeba Shire Council voted last week to advise subscription based website *Youcamp.com* that Council currently has no plans to de-regulate private land to allow its use by freedom campers.

Mareeba Shire Mayor Tom Gilmore said *Youcamp.com* allows camp operators to advertise their product to customers.

"Freedom camping is to camp, other than at a commercial camping ground, within 200 metres of a motor vehicle accessible area or the mean low-water springs tide line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200m of a formed road, using a tent or other temporary structure, a caravan or a car, campervan, motorhome or other motor vehicle," Councillor Gilmore said.

"Freedom camping is intended to be allowed anywhere except for those areas which are specifically prohibited under a local law.

"Council has been requested to provide an update how we are currently placed to allow landholders and businesses the opportunity to receive freedom campers.

"The current Mareeba Shire Planning Scheme allows for landowners to make application for a variety of forms of small to medium scale tourist accommodation including bed and breakfast accommodation, caravan park, host farm, motor home park and tourist facility.

"In most cases, a development application and development permit are required prior to the establishment of the accommodation use.

"This process is working well and Council has rarely needed to refuse an application.

"The freedom camping concept whereby camping would be allowed anywhere except for those areas which are specifically prohibited under a local law could not be implemented without also changing the planning scheme.

"Freedom camping I expect would receive significant opposition from the established commercial accommodation providers and there would undoubtedly be a financial impact on these same providers.

"There would not appear to be a community benefit in implementing freedom camping throughout the Shire at this time."

Under the Tablelands Subordinate Local Law a temporary home (including caravan, tent, etc) may be established on an allotment for less than four weeks if; the temporary home is sited on an allotment occupied by an existing dwelling house, the home is located to the rear of the existing dwelling house, and provided no waste materials, including grey water, are deposited on site or left on site after departure.



# Camping crackdown at beach

**BRENDAN CRABB**

AFTER a public outcry earlier this year, camping and lighting of fires on land at the northern end of Bombo Beach will be prohibited.

As reported by the *Kiama Independent* in April, the 2013-14 summer holiday period produced an unusually large influx of campers at the north end of Bombo Beach.

At the time residents took to social media to vent frustrations about the tourists.

In April, a Kiama Council spokesperson said the land was zoned E2 Environmental Conservation and owned by Sydney Water.

"E2 zoned land does not allow use of the land as a designated camping ground," the spokesperson said.

A report to the May council meeting said camping at Bombo Beach, particularly last Christmas, increased dramatically.

According to council's report, they received numerous complaints from residents about the impact of camping including

disturbance to local residence, fires, noise, scattering of rubbish, drinking of alcohol, condition of amenities and restricted access to parking.

"Also, additional cleaning costs associated with litter collection and amenities cleaning had been incurred," the report said.

A request for a sewage caravan/campervan dump point at the northern end of the beach was previously rejected by Kiama councillors, due to the belief it would increase the illegal camping in the area.

At the September meeting, councillors endorsed a series of staff recommendations regarding the area.

These included that camping and the lighting of fires on land at the northern end of Bombo Beach become prohibited activities under the *Local Government Act*.

The council will erect notices indicating that camping and lighting of fires are prohibited activities in the area.

**CONTINUED PAGE 2**



# Camping ban at beach

## FROM PAGE 1

Proposals to make the area at the northern end of the beach an alcohol prohibited area and apply parking time limits at the site are in process.

Rather than enforcing

finer, the council proposes to develop a "communication plan" outlining its position and providing information for campers regarding alternative locations to camp.

"Correspondence has been received from Sydney Water advising that it has no

objections to council pursuing illegal camping enforcement under the *Local Government Act*," council's report said. "However, it was requested that council notify Sydney Water before any enforcement action against individuals is commenced."



Campers at the northern end of Bombo Beach earlier this year.



## Camper parking on the cards

**IN A commitment to tourism, the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale will consider an allocation of \$55,000 in their mid-year budget review for six 24 hour recreational vehicle (RV) bays, providing space for visiting campers to the area.**

Consideration of the budget allocation will be undertaken subject to positive feedback from adjacent residents to the proposed site and Jarrahdale Community Association.

Shire president Keith Ellis said it was no secret the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale lacked tourism accommodation.

“We are keen to cater for a range of visitors over the coming years,” he said.

“The recreational vehicle bays will potentially be 9 x 9 metres, and located east of Staff Street, with its wonderful forest location within walking distance to other features and facilities in the Jarrahdale town site.”

A recent report to Council noted that providing RV bays would introduce Jarrahdale to the marketplace as an RV destination and deliver tourism and economic benefits to the local community.

Council’s endorsement at their recent meeting supported the concept, and subsequent consideration of the project at the mid-year budget review, with final approval required during budget deliberations to green light the project.

For further information contact Tammy Wayne-Elliott: 9526 1149/0409 451 756.



## Plan to turn a profit on campervan sewage

**Erin Jones**

TEA Tree Gully Council wants to turn the northeast into a tourist haven for motor homes and campervans.

The council is investigating the feasibility of an overnight stay area and sewage dump point for the recreational vehicles.

The council this month voted to investigate the idea as a way to increase tourist numbers to the district.

It consulted tourism and hospitality businesses in July, which supported the establishment of a sewage dump point. Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia national member services co-ordinator Raymond Cowley welcomed the council's investigation.

CMCA research showed recreational vehicle drivers spent an average \$572 a week when on the road, boosting the local economy.

The investigation will report next year.



# Club sets up camp in town

## Motorhomes converge on region

PENOLA'S McCorquindale Park will be filled with rows of motorhomes and happy campers this month.

Auswide Motorhome Club members are converging on the region for their 16th annual rally.

Around 50 motorhome owners will set up camp at the Eagles' home ground from October 7 to 13.

Organisers visited three areas in South Australia in July last year seeking a suitable site for the 2014 rally and decided on Penola.

McCorquindale Park management committee chairperson Damian Flint has worked alongside Wattle Range Mayor Peter Gandolfi to support the rally and provide a welcoming environment for the visitors.

Mr Flint said the rally would help boost tourism in the area.

"It will be a great event to host in the town and spread the word about Penola into other states," he said.

"We are hoping our local businesses will benefit from the visitors."

The official opening will be on Tuesday afternoon and will be attended by Mr Flint and Mr Gandolfi.

Club members will take advantage of their surroundings and explore what the region has to offer.

The itinerary includes bus trips to Yallum House near Penola, along with The Sheep's Back Museum and world heritage caves at Naracoorte.

Never Too Old and Jill's Vintage have offered mem-

bers 10pc discount on purchases while Penola Fantasy Model Railway has offered a discount on group bookings.

Bust poet Bob Mangor and the Heritage Singers will provide entertainment during the visit and Evelynne Bowden will offer small group tours of the town.

An open day will be held on Sunday, October 12, with the public welcome to visit McCorquindale Park to meet the visitors and inspect vehicles.

**It will be a great event to host in the town and spread the word about Penola into other states**

Damian Flint



**ON THEIR WAY:** Members of the Auswide Motorhome Club will visit Penola for a week in October during their 16th annual rally.



# Peak Hill just became a little 'friendlier'

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) has officially declared Peak Hill as an RV Friendly Town

By promoting the partnership between mobile travellers and small towns, CMCA hopes to encourage the expansion of tourism related infrastructure and services, and also boost the economy of those small towns providing RV tourist specific amenities.

"With affordable overnight parking at Peak Hill Showground, existing facilities and the installation of RV dump points and directional signage, Peak Hill was in the ideal position to be recognised as RV Friendly by the CMCA," Parkes Shire Council's Tourism and Marketing Manager, Katrina Dwyer said yesterday.

"Being recognised as RV Friendly will provide many tourism benefits to the community of Peak Hill, including direct promotion as an RV Friendly destination to over 66,000 CMCA members."

The designation of RV Friendly Towns

continues to encourage all RV travellers to stop, shop and enjoy all that destinations have to offer.

"The advantage of Peak Hill becoming an RV Friendly Town is that the business communities will benefit from the dollars spent by these mobile travellers," CMCA Director, National Consumer Representative and Government Liaison, Ken Kipping said.

"The value of road based tourism in Australia is estimated to be \$7 billion per annum."

In order to qualify for the scheme, towns must successfully meet the needs of mobile travellers and satisfy stringent criteria including:

- Access to medical facilities, a pharmacy, a dump point and a general shopping area;
- Provision of appropriate parking;
- A Visitor Information Centre and vehicle service centre.

CMCA also considers the general atti-

tude of the local council and community, so as to truly identify the friendliest areas in Australia.

"Therefore, travellers can enter any RV Friendly Town with the knowledge that they will be welcomed and adequately provided for. In return, CMCA supports and promotes towns with an RV Friendly status.

"CMCA strives to promote a number of schemes that will facilitate improved relationships between RV travellers, government and the community," Ken said.

"This way we are ensuring that everyone's interests are considered and our programs are mutually beneficial for all parties involved.

"The results of the scheme continue to be promising with an increasing number of towns qualifying as RV Friendly," he said.

For a current list of RV Friendly Towns™ visit the CMCA website [www.cmca.net.au](http://www.cmca.net.au).