



## LETTERS

### Way of future

I HAVE just read an item in the Central and North Burnett Times (CNBT, May 29) and would like to put the record straight where you have generalised about CMCA members, of which we are one.

We are not insured through CMCA and use it just as a club, which it is, to connect with other travellers.

It is not an insurance/co-operative based club.

Our motorhome is our only home and we certainly do not have a million dollar lifestyle and we haven't met many on the road that do.

We are both on pensions and have to definitely count our pennies very carefully.

We have been in business ourselves so we see where you are coming from, but you must realise that not everyone has to/wants to stay in facilities that are close to being back in suburbia.

We do not always

freedom camp to save money; it is the quiet and the bush we like.

We will stay in caravan parks when we choose to.

When we free camp, you do not get our money but the RV friendly towns/destinations do.

Most travellers would drive through a non RV friendly destination without stopping and continue on to the next RV friendly place and spend their money there.

So have you ever thought of making a part of your park 'self contained RV friendly'?

No facilities except, maybe, a dump point and a cheap overnight cost?

This is the way of the future grey nomad market.

**Marian White**



## Have a say on proposed caravan park changes

THE State Government hopes a consultation paper on proposed changes to caravan park and camping ground laws will spark debate about the future of the industry.

Local Government Minister Tony Simpson said the existing 16-year-old laws were outdated, stifling operators' ability to meet consumer needs.

"The proposed changes will provide a more flexible operating environment, creating choice for consumers and opportunities for operators," Mr Simpson said.

The proposed changes include giving park operators longer licences, lower compliance costs and greater flexibility to meet consumer demands, giving users a greater choice and more affordable holiday options and providing simpler and flexible laws to meet the needs of the locality and to allow tourism to evolve and flourish.

"Western Australia's outdoor lifestyle means it has more caravan, camper-trailer and campervan registrations than

any other state, with 30 for every 1000 people," Mr Simpson said.

"Whether you are a camper, caravan user, operator or long-stay tenant, your comments are important to us and it's important your views are submitted now.

"Comments close on September 1."

The state has 72,405 caravan and camper-trailers, plus 8127 campervan registrations.

The consultation paper comes as the State Government implements its \$21.05million Parks for People initiative, which will provide more high-quality, low-cost holiday options for WA families and tourists.

Under the initiative at least 450 new campsites will be created in 16 national parks.

"What I want to see is WA established as a top destination for caravanning and camping, attracting not only locals but people from all over the world," acting Tourism Minister John Day said.

## Oakey becomes 'RV Friendly'

Oakey Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been told that the town is now more RV friendly following the installation of a new effluent dump site for those touring in recreational vehicles.

The dump, in York Street will soon be available to passing tourists in caravans and other recreational vehicles.

The facility should encourage more tourist activity in Oakey once signage is erected and the site marketed to RV clubs.

At the Chamber's monthly meeting, TRC liaison officer David Totenhofer provided an overview of results of recent Community Engagement sessions.

The Chamber conducted a street audit in conjunction with Council's Community Engagement, highlighting many aspects that needed attention in the Oakey CBD.

Some improvements deriving from the audit and consultation with Toowoomba Regional Council include the

repainting of white lines on roadways, pedestrian crossing and car parking sites; and the painting in yellow of the pedestrian crossing bollards.

The matter of graffiti control by having organised street art in locations such

as the pylons under the railway bridge was also mentioned.

Any such move would need to be in consultation with Queensland rail.

The next Chamber meeting will be at the CWA rest rooms on July 16 at 5.30pm.



# Residence Awaits New Manager

*By Jenny Pollard*

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**The recent appearance of a new home at the Charlton's Traveller's Rest precinct marks the beginning of a new phase of operation for the popular caravan/ motorhome destination.**

The installation of a manager's residence has been the initiative of the Traveller's Rest Committee, and will create a permanent on-site point of contact for visitors and recreational travellers.

Along with building the profile of Traveller's Rest, the potential to grow the facility as a business will also be an incentive to an incoming manager.

The arrival of the 12.5 square, two bedroom Neatline Home from Shepparton three weeks ago has been the culmination of a number of years' work and planning for the small group which makes up the Traveller's Rest Committee.

Chairman Lloyd Paterson was eager to show off the new

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## Residence Awaits New Manager

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residence, which will soon be completed with landscaping, a double garage and fencing, along with the appropriate signage.

Entry, via a ramp running across the front of the building, leads directly to the office/ information centre inside the front door.

A spacious living area, and kitchen/ dining space occupy the southern end of the residence, with bedrooms, laundry and bathroom on the eastern and northern sides.

An adjoining deck at the rear of the building will be widened, and a six foot fence will break the view overlooking the back of the new Charlton hospital on the eastern side.

"This whole initiative has been made possible through a variety of funding sources which incorporate significant philanthropic, government and local input," said Lloyd.

These include the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust (\$102,000), Local Government Infrastructure Fund (\$70,000), Charlton Rotary Club (\$50,000), Charlton Lions Club (\$20,000), Charlton Forum (\$5,000) and Traveller's Rest Committee (\$5,000).

"OASIS has also been a very keen supporter of this project," said Lloyd, "with members offering plenty of in-kind labour."

Funds have also been committed towards the establish-



• *Chairman of the Charlton Traveller's Rest Committee, Lloyd Paterson is pictured in front of the new manager's residence which was recently installed on the site.*

ment a website to help promote the Traveller's Rest.

Lloyd said that the manager's role would be to build the patronage and increase the promotion of the facility.

Through publications such as the "Campervan" and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) magazine, "The Wanderer", there was potential to reach up to 66,000 members of that organisation alone.

"This has the potential to create a significant economic flow-on effect for Charlton," said Lloyd.

"And when you look at it, the location of the Traveller's Rest is so unique – I mean, this is probably the only facility in Australia where you can walk 200 metres from your caravan and you're in the main street."

Although close to the Avoca River, the premises is been raised the required 300mm above the January 2011 flood level height, as well as being situated on a slight rise in the precinct.

The new manager will also oversee the bookings and occupancy of the adjacent Gordon Park caravan site which is a stone's throw away across the swing bridge.

With the finishing touches heading towards completion, the Traveller's Rest Committee will shortly be calling for expressions of interest for the managerial position.



# ROLLING OUT THE RV RED CARPET



Rocky council identifies Kershaw Gardens as site for out-of-towners to stay. **Report P3**

## Stopover for RVs at Kershaw

**Pam McKay**

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THE ROCKHAMPTON Regional Council is moving to accommodate “the community on wheels” by providing an overnight stopover for recreational vehicles at Kershaw Gardens.

It plans to develop the 4800sq m car park off High St – opposite Bob Jane T-Marts – into a site for self-contained caravans, campervans and other RVs.

All campers will need to

be self-sufficient and no tents will be allowed.

Mayor Margaret Strelow (pictured) said this would

replace the temporary stopover at Washpool, which was established at the southern entrance of the

city last October.

The High St site was chosen after consultation with councillors and representatives from campervan and motorhome associations.

“It just seemed to jump out and meet the criteria,” Cr Strelow said yesterday.

“It is close to the highway, and close to shops, restaurants and entertainment.

“This will add economic value to the town as well, allowing businesses in the area to get the benefit.”

It was envisaged campers would stay a maximum of two nights.

Cr Strelow said the council had no plans to provide toilets and showers or a dump point at the site.

It was expected the 240-litre bins around the car park would prove adequate for the disposal of domestic waste generated by the campers.

Cr Strelow said the Rockhampton Rotary Club had offered to provide a number of functions, including a personalised “meet and greet” to campers to promote local services, facilities and tourist attractions.

The council’s parks and recreation committee yesterday voted in favour of the appropriate approvals being sought and the Land Use Management Plan being revised to progress the

stopover.

Camping at Washpool would be discontinued when the new site was open.

### BEST RV STOPOVER

WE ASKED readers to nominate the best location for an RV stopover.

■ **Jason Roberts:** Perhaps across Stocklands behind the bus stop or Kershaw Gardens.

■ **JustinCarmen Challen:** Showgrounds or music bowl.

■ **Di Villiers:** Kershaw Gardens.

■ **Rhys Jackson:** Where the dirt parking area is in Kershaw Gardens.



## A DAM FINE WAY TO TAKE IN SCENERY



**TOASTING GREAT OUTDOORS:** Will Huyser, 73, with wife Leigh, 69, and pet dog Jigger the 5-year-old cavoodle enjoy some champagne at Townsville's Dam Fine Rally. Picture: ZAK SIMMONDS

### KATE HIGGINS

THEY'RE 5000km from home, but there's nowhere the Huysers would rather be.

Leigh, 69, and Will Huyser, 73, from Mandura, WA, have been making the trip to Townsville's Dam Fine Rally for motorhomes and campervans for the past three years.

"It's a great atmosphere, there's no pressure, it's fun and it's not too big," Mrs

Huyser said. "We have entertainment every afternoon, there are morning teas with informative talks and meals on site and at night there's always more entertainment and dancing."

The rally, which ended on Monday, attracted more than 300 motorhomes to the base of the Ross River Dam and is a highlight of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia calendar.

Mrs Huyser said she, her

husband and their five-year-old cavoodle Jigger were frequent visitors to Queensland and counted many of its towns among their favourites.

"We love the inland route and don't necessarily follow the coast," she said.

"We love the Bunya Highway and towns like Gayndah and Eidsvold. Nambour is beautiful as well as places like Clermont and Emerald.

"If we didn't live in WA, we'd live in Queensland."