



Be like a barra at show



**ALL THINGS
OUTDOORS –
The Tamworth
Caravan,
Camping and
Outdoor
Living Show.**

A FESTIVAL of a different kind will roll into Tamworth this month – it won't be country music but it will still be popular with people of all ages.

The Tamworth Caravan, Camping and Outdoor Living Show celebrates all things outdoors and is crafted to hit the right note with locals and visitors alike.

Spanning three days at the Tamworth Jockey Club, the latest in caravans, campervans, camper-trailers and other recreational vehicles will be on show

along with tents, camping accessories, gadgets and gizmos.

Fishing enthusiasts will be hooked on the 13,000-litre Yamaha super tank. Glass-sided and containing 20 live barramundi, it is designed to give a fish's-eye view on the world of angling.

An array of lures and rods will also be on offer.

■ November 28-30. Gates open 10am with tickets at the gate: \$10 and \$8. Children under 17 free.



Upgrade for Oxley reserve



VICTORIAN Deputy Premier Peter Ryan has described Oxley Recreation Reserve as “a cracker” of a spot.

And the popular Oxley site will become an even more attractive destination for locals and tourists with a \$112,000 upgrade set to rebuild toilets and showers.

Works will see better facilities for recreation vehicles and caravans (including a dump point), with the main pavilion to get an undercover patio with concrete flooring.

Floor coverings for the kitchen and a reverse cycle air conditioner will also be installed to cater for parties and meetings held at the 80 seat capacity venue.

It’s a venue that hosts thousands of equestrian enthusiasts every year and club members and tourists will also be major beneficiaries of the unique redevelopment.

“Over recent years, the reserve has begun to show its age and is now in desperate need of a redevelopment,” Mr Ryan said while visiting the site on Wednesday, to announce \$70,000 for the project through the government’s Regional Growth Fund.

“The poor condition of the toilet and shower facilities, as well as a lack of suitable facilities to dump caravan and RV waste, was turning

people away.

“By investing in this vital upgrade we are encouraging visitors back to this great location, which will ultimately benefit the broader region by having more tourists visiting the area and spending their hard earned money.”

A key driver behind the project, Sandra McDonald, said a lot of people will benefit with campers and horse riders regularly using the site.

“It’s the biggest improvement to date and a lot of people, groups and clubs hire the ground and they want these better facilities,” she said.

“It’s too nice of a place to not camp, so we need these facilities.”

Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia will provide the RV dump point infrastructure at no cost.

Committee president Neville Wright said they’ll look at getting the tennis courts redone with lighting in the future as well.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is contributing \$25,000 to the project, with the reserve committee finding the remainder, including in-kind support.



TEA FOR THREE: Oxley Recreation Reserve Committee grants officer Sandra McDonald with Deputy Premier Peter Ryan (left) and Tim McCurdy (MLA, Murray Valley) have a cup of tea to celebrate funding for the \$112,000 project. PHOTO: Luke Plummer



ADVERTISING FEATURE



The Mount Gambier Great Outdoor Expo

THE Mount Gambier Great Outdoor Expo 2014 is coming to town. A large selection of local and interstate exhibitors will be on site for the event, which starts on Friday 7th of November 11.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 8th 10.00am – 5.00pm and Sunday 9th 10.00am – 4.00pm.

The three day event – held at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds – will showcase everything from the latest in caravans, motorhomes, campervans and camper trailers, boats, kayaks, 4WDs and 4x4 accessories, as well as an extensive range of fishing gear, demonstrations and activities for the whole family.

“We are really excited to be bringing the Expo to Mount Gambier” says Richard Hiscock, the Exhibition Manager of the Great Outdoor Expo Company.

“I think the Mount Gambier community will love the Expo, which is held annually in Ballarat, Echuca, Mildura and Gippsland and now for

the first time in Mount Gambier.

This year’s Expo will also include camping gear, holiday and adventure destinations, gold detecting, outdoor cooking equipment, and a unique range of outdoor furniture.

There are bargains galore available at The Mount Gambier Great Outdoor Expo. Many exhibitors will be offering show specials, so make sure you drop in and grab yourself a bargain.

There are also four fantastic door prizes to be won just by attending

the Expo - a Safari H2o kayak valued at \$800 compliments of RV Aqualine Industries, fishing gear valued at \$300 compliments of V Tackle, a Minelab XTerra 705 metal detector valued at \$850 compliments of R.M Electronics, and two Hummer Tough phones compliments of Tough Phones Oz valued at \$415 each.

There are demonstrations and activities for the whole family. We think it’s a great day out for everyone”



said Mr Hiscock.

Who Is At The Expo?

Interested in Caravan and Camping? The extensive list of exhibitors include Jayco Mt Gambier, Avan RV including their range of Motor Homes, JB Caravan Sales, Geelong Caravan Centre, Great Southern RV, Green RV, Majestic Caravans, Billabong Caravans, Elite Caravan, Eden Caravans and many more. If it is a camper trailer you are looking for they are well represented by Cub Campers, Blue Water Campers, Eagle Campers, Ezytrail and Karakampa to name just a few. A large variety of small boutique companies will also be exhibiting their wares.

4wd enthusiasts will also find lots to love about the Expo, as they will be able to view the latest in 4x4 equipment and technology.

If boating and fishing is your thing, then look no further! The Mount Gambier Great Outdoor Expo have

A popular attraction is sure to be the Lyal Eales display of camping equipment with popular brands such as, Waeco, Engel, Darche, Oztrail, Primus and Companion Caravan Accessories. There will also be a hands-on exhibit by the well-known outdoor cooking company Auspitt where you can not only watch and learn, but you can taste before you buy.

Where Is The Expo?

Mount Gambier Show Grounds, Pick Avenue. Mount Gambier.

an extensive range of fishing gear, including the latest in soft plastics and how to use them. You will be well covered for this summer season.

What Can You Do There?

If you are an experienced caravan or camper looking to upgrade, or a first timer there is something for everyone at the Mount Gambier Great Outdoor Expo. If it is information that you are looking for be it fishing, boating, marine safety and the dos and don'ts of camping then come along and talk to the experts.

You will be entertained all day with a range of demonstrations including fishing and casting, presented by well known expert John Didge "The Jig Man." Prospecting, gold panning and metal detecting will be demonstrated by R.M Electronics, and outdoor cooking by the experts Auspitt.



Caravan, camping expo set for this weekend

GREY nomads, campers and holidaymakers will descend on Batemans Bay this weekend for the annual South Coast Caravan, Camping, Holiday Expo.

The expo will feature the latest equipment, newest models and specifications of caravans, as well as camping equipment, motorhomes, campervans, camper trailers, tents, accessories, holiday parks and destination displays. just in time for summer.

Held over three days from Friday to Sunday at Mackay Park, the expo is marketed as "the perfect place to bring the entire family".

Caravan and Camping Industry Association NSW CEO Lyndel Gray said the event would feature more than 110 exhibitors and the NRMA's 'Blue Zone' entertainment area.

"There is no better place to take a look at the latest caravan and camping products, best destinations and to get yourself ready for the summer holidays," she said.

"There are some amazing products on the market and the expo gives you an opportunity to see the full range and compare your options.

"Take a tour of a new pop-top range featuring a full ensuite or you can get a closer look at the latest flat-panel, fully automatic satellite television system, check out some of the best portable barbecues and even get a preview of some of our best NSW destinations."

Ms Gray said the South Coast expo would offer a great day out for all the family with plenty to keep the kids entertained as well.

"We know people love coming along to our expos and we make sure our events cater for all the family with jumping castles and a face painter on site and a great range of food - there is something for everyone," she said.

Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$6 Concession and children 16 and under are free with an accompanying adult.



RV provisions still problematic

I would like to thank Mr Martin of the Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) for his letter in the *Midwest Times* (October 30) in which he provides some 'facts' concerning the CMCA's submission to the City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) to become a CMCA 'accredited' recreational vehicle-friendly city (RVFC).

Let's define an RV vehicle as applied to being an RVFC. The CMCA definition is a "self-contained vehicle" (S-CV). This group is only a relatively small portion of the caravan and camping fraternity, but obviously growing.

And the RVFC status that the CMCA is offering to the CGG, subject to their compliance of the 'essential criteria' (EC), concerns only S-CVs.

Of these 'essential criteria' only one — the provision of short term stays of 48-72 hours dura-

tion at 'low-cost' or 'no-cost' — is problematical, the rest of the 'essential and desirable criteria' including the provision of waste dump and potable water points are 'no-brainers', as most tourist-oriented towns and cities would consider these as beneficial to their infrastructure.

At present overnight camping in the city, outside registered caravan parks, is illegal and this one EC (short-term stays) requires the CGG to remove that regulation for S-CVs only.

Now the National Competition Policy is all about local councils not offering goods and services in unfair competition to local businesses, in this case highly regulated caravan parks.

Just to 'sweeten the deal' the CMCA proposes that if CGG opts for RVFC status then 'thousands' more free-spending S-CV caravanners will flood into Geraldton and boost the local traders coff-

ers by \$9.4 million per year.

Oh sorry I nearly forgot, Mr Martin in his letter, sliced that by about 50 per cent (\$4.25 million). Blackadder might well have said "would you believe five per cent or even no per cent".

Actually, start-up costs met by CGG and the loss of some local traders revenue (caravan parks) smacks of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' with absolutely no certainty that Paul will ever get paid.

I ask a rhetorical question — will I personally put in a submission to the CGG?

Probably not, as this debate will almost certainly be swamped by the CMCA, Caravan Park Associations, local council and the State Government and the opinions of local concerned ratepayers and residents be treated as irrelevant.

John Gaze
West End



Big winners left jumping for joy

Darcy Hay

Irwin Shire and Skydive Jurien Bay have made a splash in the WA Tourism Awards.

For Skydive Jurien Bay, receiving a silver award for the Adventure Tourism category marks a full compliment of medals, after taking out a bronze medal in 2011 and gold medals in 2012 and last year.

Skydive Jurien Bay marketing manager James Garnaut said the award was good for both business exposure and awareness of the Turquoise Coast region as a tourist destination.

“All the staff love their job and it’s because of their passion and professionalism we have been high achievers since the business was founded in 2009,” he said.

“We’re very honoured to win an award for the fifth year in a row”

Irwin Shire also took out silver in the Local Government Award category, following a bronze award last year.

Shire chief executive officer Darren Simmons said work in promoting tourism’s importance in Dongara-Port Denison’s economic fabric was the key to their success.

Measures had included a recent decision to allow travellers in self-contained vehicles to stop for free

overnight near the Dongara town centre — leading to it being dubbed an ‘RV-friendly community’ by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia.

“Having been a finalist and ultimately awarded the Bronze Local Government Award at the 2013 WA Tourism Awards, the Shire of Irwin is very proud to have gone one better bring the Silver Local Government Award for Tourism at the 2014 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards last Saturday,” he said.

“**All the staff love their job and it’s because of their passion and professionalism we have been high achievers since the business was founded in 2009**

James Garnaut



Stephen Lumsden, Nicole Nelson (Manager Library and Tourism Services), Darren Simmons (CEO) and Jane Simmons. Picture: Tourism Council of WA



Loving motorhome life

ABOUT 200 RV ENTHUSIASTS ROLL IN TO KYABRAM FOR THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL

By Thomas Moir

Allan Weeks knows a thing or two about life on the road.

The man behind the Kyabram RV Country Music Corral has had the pleasure of watching it grow during its three years.

Setting up camp at the Kyabram showgrounds at the weekend, this year's instalment saw about 200 RV lovers roll in from across the country to socialise with other like-minded folk and enjoy a selection of local country music.

Motorhomers, caravaners, troopies, fifth wheelers and campers were all welcome, as well as people who wished to come in and enjoy the festivities for the day.

Among the performers was local legend Reg Poole, while other attractions during the weekend included a Sunday morning Poet's Breakfast, followed by a gospel performance.

Grey nomads from across Australia made up the bulk of the corral's visitors, but recently there's been a higher percentage of younger visitors, often arriving in troopies.

By Friday afternoon, nearly 160 motorists had already set up at the festival, which ran until yesterday, with the number climbing higher every hour.

Max Haines, the proud owner of a shiny, silver National Sea Breeze RV, is considered to be the number-one ticket holder for the festival.

With his wife Dorothy, he

has attended the corral since its first year and is the only visitor who has a premium space reserved for him, with his name spray-painted on the grass.

Mr Haines said he ordered his RV in 1996 from the United States before he arranged for it to be converted to right-hand drive for use in Australia.

"The Americans are 15 years ahead of us in terms of RV manufacturing," he said.

"We're a small community and you run into fellow motorhomers all over Australia."

Mr Weeks agreed with Mr Haines' assessment of the size of the motorhome community.

"My wife and I were up visiting Oaklands in NSW 44 years ago," Mr Weeks said.

"Last night, a man came up to me and said, 'Allan,

have you been up to Oaklands lately?' It was the same man who had recognised me. That's how small the community is."

A sombre, country ballad could be heard across the site when *The News* was there on Friday.

"That's an RV owner playing that, you know," Mr Weeks said.

He said motorhomers were encouraged to bring their own musical instruments and to perform if they wished.

"It takes a full year to organise," Mr Weeks said of the festival.

"We've already started planning for next year."



Welcome: Allan Weeks at the Kyabram RV Country Music Corral site.



Specially reserved: Max and Dorothy Haines in front of their RV.

Pictures: Ray Sizer