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We spoke to one family from Germany who were off to hike a series of trails through Mt Buffalo National Park and Alpine National Park. Our local Victorian friends make regular winter pilgrimages to snowboard at Mt Buffalo, Falls Creek or Mt Hotham.

Miss Six and Miss Eight spent most of our ideal winter weekend laboriously collecting chestnuts. These beautiful nuts are definitely the local specialty during April, amazing pureed or added to a hearty casserole. They're for sale everywhere – in cafes, outside the butcher – it seems every local has a tree.

Queensland has our vote for a lot of things but, for early winter harvest, head to Victoria's alpine region.

“Time for scarves, jackets, boots, hot chocolate and hearty red wine in front of a fire

➤ ALPINE VICTORIA

PLAY

2014 High Country Harvest Festival
Red Stag Farm
The kids can hand-feed deer and grown-ups can try local wines and venison sausages.

03 5756 2365
redstag.com.au
Mt Buffalo

Adventure lovers can enjoy rock climbing, abseiling, hang-gliding and adventure caving here. You can also camp at Lake Catani from November to April.
brightvictoria.com.au

EAT and DRINK

Bright Brewery
Local brews the locals brag about.

121 Great Alpine Rd, Bright
03 5755 1301
brightbrewery.com.au

Beanz Cafe
Single origin coffees and rustic good fare.

103 Gavan St, Bright
facebook.com/
BeanzCafeBright
Edelweiss Bakery
Blackberry pie. Enough said.
5 Ireland St, Bright
03 5755 1428

RENT

Apollo Motorhome Holidays
Branches nationally
www.apollocamper.com

STAY

Big4 Bright Holiday Park
On the banks of the Ovens River.
1-11 Mountbatten Ave
03 5755 1064
bright.vic.big4.com.au



YUM: Fresh apples for the kids.

PHOTO: CARLA ADAMS



Aussie holiday ideas



Winter delights

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Carla Adams
packs up her
family and goes
cruising the
highways

I'LL gladly defend Queensland on every level – food, entertainment, lifestyle and holiday experiences.

But there's one time the southern states outperform our sunny home – winter.

To give our Miss Six and Miss Eight a true “winter” this year, we hired a

big friendly giant motorhome from Apollo Motorhome Holidays, taking him (it was definitely a him) south to alpine Victoria.

Miss Six and Miss Eight were positively bouncing with excitement at the prospect of living and travelling in a “cubbyhouse on wheels”.

The best part, we thought, was the chance to visit friends and family without having to sleep on their floors but that was just the half of it.

During the getting to know him lecture at the Apollo branch, we found out where to store and stash our gear (hooray, no luggage limits), learned how to work the gas cooktop, microwave, TV/DVD player, onboard hot water shower and the ... ahem ... etiquette of changing the toilet tank.

The good news is toilet chemicals completely neutralise any odours and the entire job can be done in a few minutes at any approved waste station by a handy husband.

The BFG was far easier to drive than I expected. Our six-berth Euro Deluxe had a double top bunk over the

driver's cabin for the kids and the dinette at the rear converted to a spacious double, long enough for my 186cm husband to sleep in comfort. Because there is a secondary dinette where the kids' seats clip in while driving, we left the rear bed made up during the whole trip.

We arrived at Bright, in the Alpine region of Victoria, as the leaves were turning. Now this is winter – a daily visual rotation of greens, golds, pinks and reds, all hung on the branches of poplars, maples, liquid ambers and huge oak trees.

Time for scarves, jackets and big boots, hot chocolate with marshmallows and hearty red wine in front of a fire.

Bright offers year-round activities but summer and autumn are the



biggest tourism seasons.

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YUM: Fresh apples for the kids.

PHOTO: CARLA ADAMS



Road tripping across the country

By Damen Francis

Shepparton-raised professional golfer Jarrod Lyle is taking his US PGA comeback tour on the road.

Lyle, 32, and wife Briony invested in a recreational vehicle and plan to drive from event to event with daughter Lusi, rather than fly.

"It's something that Bri has always wanted to do, and I think with Lusi being two years old now, it'll be nice for all three of us to see a lot more of the countryside than we would if we were just going to airports and hotels

and golf courses," Lyle said. "I call it 'Focking' around America, so it's going to be exciting.

"We're looking forward to doing it and I just can't believe they've let me get a bus to drive around."

Lyle beat acute myeloid leukaemia for the second time last year and flew to his home in Orlando, Florida last month ahead of his return to the tour.

His first confirmed tournament is the Midwest Classic in Kansas on the Web.com tour, starting July 24, and Lyle said he was looking

forward to it.

"We're giving ourselves four days to get up to this first golf tournament, but it's just going to make travelling so much easier where I can put as much stuff as I want underneath the bus," Lyle said.

"Golf equipment, whatever I need is going to be there every time I go to a golf course or go to a golf tournament.

"The driving side of it is going to be pretty tough, but the way my schedule is and the way my schedule is going to look, it's going to be very hit and miss, and it might be a

one week on, three weeks off type deal.

"We've got enough time in between to get ourselves to the next event and keep ourselves pretty busy."

Lyle is not the first pro golfer to take the RV approach. Sam Saunders — grandson of US legend Arnold Palmer and Lyle's former neighbour — also drives his way around the Web.com Tour.

"It's going to be great fun to be able to travel with those guys," Lyle said. "Sam used to live right across the road from us, so I've known Sam for a long time, and we've

played a lot of golf together over at Bay Hill.

"It'll be nice to get a bit of an RV family happening out there, and they've got a young one, as well, so Lusi will have someone to play with, and I'll have someone to play with and Bri will have someone to play with, so it works out perfect."

Beyond golf, Lyle said the family's aim was to visit all 48 mainland US states.

● **Follow Lyle's journey and leave messages of support at jarrodlylegolf.com or via his iPhone app — The Lyle File.**



Contentious camping items deferred

Proposals set for a later date

This has been going on for two years. It is beyond a joke.

CAMC MEMBER,
GRANT TILLET

THERE was public outcry in the City of Ballarat's council chambers as councillors voted to defer two contentious items in Wednesday night's council meeting agenda.

All councillors except Councillor Amy Johnson voted to defer the two items including a proposal to establish free dumping points for caravans, campervans and motorhomes to dispose of their waste and another proposing free camping for recreational vehicles in Pioneer Park.

The deferral was due to the city's request to seek legal assistance on the two matters.

Campervan and Motorhome Club co-director Keith Moxham vented his frustration to councillors and said he had travelled from Melbourne to make his submissions for both proposals on behalf of the recreational vehicle lobby group.

"I guess it's lucky I didn't fly one of the directors in from Brisbane for this meeting," he said.

"A bit of notice would have been appreciated. We just want this issue resolved, it is a small issue but it is becoming this enormous thing and I would like to see some rationality come back into it."

Also in the chamber was Victorian Caravan Parks Association chief executive office

MELISSA CUNNINGHAM

Elizabeth White, who had travelled from west Melbourne to make a submission in support of Ballarat's existing caravan park owners.

Ms White told *The Courier* she had submitted an urgent letter to the council on Tuesday on the advice of her legal advisor, outlining the concerns of the association.

"I think it is important that the council take the time to go through the issues that we raised in the letter, including the significant costs we believe council will incur if this goes ahead, and the considerable risks these proposal will have that maybe the council has not yet considered," Ms White said.

Ms White said she would return to Ballarat to make her public submission at a later date.

Ballarat resident and CAMC member Grant Tillett said he was disappointed by the outcome.

"This has been going on for two years. It is beyond a joke," Mr Tillett. "It is being made into a fuss when it shouldn't be."

Cr Des Hudson said the council was awaiting legal advice on both items and a deferral was required to ensure the right outcome was met.

"The council needs to be across all legalities involved in this item," Cr Hudson said.

Cr Amy Johnson opposed the deferral and encouraged the people who had planned to make public submissions to still do so.

"People have put in a lot of time and effort into their submissions and made the effort to attend the meeting and I think it is ridiculous to defer it now," Cr Johnson said.

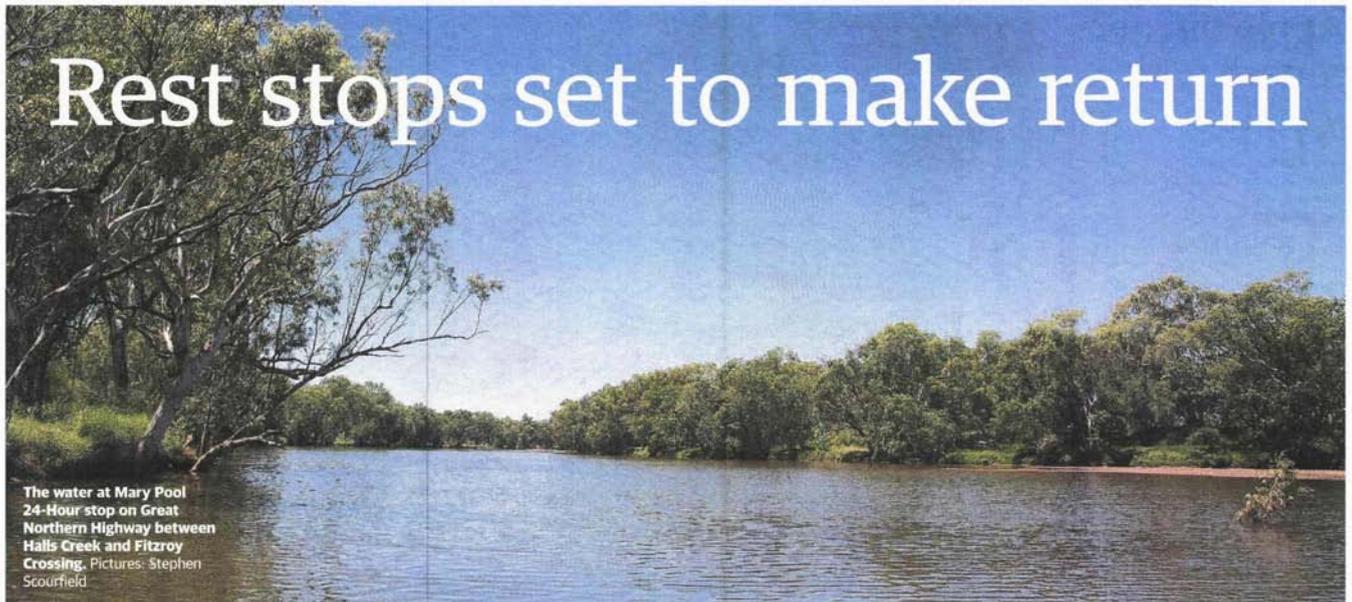
While Cr Johnson was the only councillor to vote against the deferral, Cr Peter Innes voiced his disappointment.

"What I find intriguing is that council officers have been working really hard and looking into this for three years but these issues haven't been raised until today," he said.

Cr Morris said it was critical the council made the right decision on both items and a deferral was the only way to ensure this occurred.

"Concerns have been raised about both items and we want to get the right results," Cr Morris said. "We see these items as two quite separate issues and we are seeking separate legal advice on both these reports and once we have that assistance we will be better placed to make the right decision."

melissa.cunningham@fairfaxmedia.com.au



The water at Mary Pool
24-Hour stop on Great
Northern Highway between
Halls Creek and Fitzroy
Crossing. Pictures: Stephen
Scourfield

Stephen Scourfield

In the old days of driving around the Kimberley, before we all arrived in numbers, it seemed that almost every place where the road crossed a river or creek, there was a bit of a track leading to an unofficial overnight camp spot.

Times changed and, one way and another, the spots seemed to vanish.

But under the WA Caravan and Camping Action Plan, they are making a return.

One of the action plan's recommendations is for new 24-hour rest areas in the North West, along with specifics such as the installation of more dump points for the safe disposal of black waste by travellers in self-contained recreational vehicles along key roads.

While the 24-hour stops may be aimed primarily at combating fatigue, what they have done, I feel, is give us back that old feeling of just wandering around the Kimberley, and not merely just transiting from town to town.

I am driving south on Great Northern Highway from Kununurra to Warmun, Halls

Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Broome.

And, 45km from the junction of this highway with the Victoria Highway, which leads into Kununurra and on towards the Northern Territory, is the Dunham River 24-hour stop, with the Saw Ranges behind, just north of Doon Doon Roadhouse and on

the shoulder of this important Kimberley river.

There are two sizes of barbecues (travellers need to bring in wood or fuel) — big ones by camping spots and small ones by the parking area.

Tables and benches are under roofs and there are nooks and crannies to push into, though it is sure to be busy at the height of season.

Further south, there's Muluk's Rest near Fletcher's Creek and then the Leicester's Rest 24-hour stop.

Further south again is Mary Pool — a big 24-hour stop area, again with toilets, an RV dump spot, bins and barbecues.

Mary Pool is a big waterhole alive with fish and the camping

area is under big, shady trees.

And then on south to the 24-hour stop at Ngumpan Cliff,

east of Fitzroy Crossing. Once again, there are toilets and a dump spot, tables and benches under shady roofs.

Even when I get 110km from Broome, there's the Nillibubbica 24-hour stop.

I know that some folk in Kimberley tourism question the free stops and I have heard plenty of anecdotes about travellers digging in and staying a week for free.

But what I like is the feeling of being welcome.

I think travellers are going to still settle in the good caravan parks with their facilities but they might slow the days down and stop for a night here and there at a 24-hour spot.

And a free night helps to bring down the cost of the whole trip — extra cash that might be spent on a tour or a dinner out.



Kimberley Echo, Kununurra WA
03 Jul 2014, by Stephen Scourfield

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24-Hour stop at Dunham River.



Shelter at the 24-Hour stop at Dunham River.



Sewerage discharge causes a stink

A DECISION to install a sewerage discharge point for recreational vehicles in Leckie Park has left some nearby residents steaming mad.

Murrindindi Shire Council, together with the Campervan and Motor Home Club of Australia, have proposed a sewer waste disposal point on the southern side of the old tennis courts in Leckie Park, near to the existing toilet block.

Access to the site would be from Vickery St, with vehicles parking on the old tennis courts.

Several residents of nearby homes have expressed concern that they were not consulted about the proposal prior to a letter from the council arriving in their letterboxes last week advising the works would begin on July 21.

The council have said the proposed site of the dump point will be approximately 80 metres from the nearest residency, but some residents living very close to Leckie Park believe it will be closer than this.

The proposed facility will be fitted with a wash down point and lid, with council vowing to

patrol the site to ensure it is not used for overnight camping.

Murrindindi Shire Council is working with the Campervan and Motor Home Club of Australia to provide a facility in Alexandra for Caravans and Campervans to deposit their sewer waste.

Murrindindi Mayor Margaret Rae said construction of the facility is aimed at increasing tourism within Alexandra by making the town more RV friendly.

“Works which contribute to the responsible disposal of waste within Murrindindi Shire bring benefits to our community,” Cr Rae said.

“These works will also reduce negative impacts on the environment by encouraging responsible disposal of waste.”

It is understood residents who are upset about the proposal are not averse to the construction of a dump point per se, but to its location in Leckie Park.

Queries about the discharge point can be directed to Murrindindi Capital Works co-ordinator Paul Valente on 5772 0333.



Maclean getting into gear

Clarence Valley prepares to put out welcome mat for motorhomes

Tim Howard

tim.howard@daillyexaminer.com.au

THE Clarence Valley is on target to become the first recreational vehicle-friendly local government area in NSW.

At Tuesday's Clarence Valley Council environment, works and planning committee meeting, two deputations from the RV community addressed the committee.

The two deputations could not have been more different in tone.

Maclean Chamber of Commerce project officer John Cooper delivered a spray to council, claiming it delayed acting on an application to make Maclean an RV Friendly Town for up to seven months and failed to answer his calls and emails.

He demanded council look into its failures on this issue. His deputation then refused to answer questions from councillors.

Mayor Richie Williamson asked Mr Cooper where he obtained his information about the council's perfor-

mance, but Mr Cooper refused to answer.

The president of the Clarence Valley Ramblers, Rex Watkins, who is also the local delegate to the Caravans and Motorhomes Club of Australia, had a more positive approach.

He said Maclean was about to gain the final piece of infrastructure, a dumping point for sewage tanks on RVs, at the Maclean Showground next month.

Mr Watkins said the CMCA would supply the equipment as well as \$3000

towards its installation. The club would also renovate the showground to allow the largest RVs to enter and turn around at the site of the dumping point.

A dumping point in Maclean will ensure both ends of the Clarence are certified RV Friendly by the club. Grafton achieved certification in 2012.

Cr Williamson asked Mr Watkins if there were any other local government areas certified RV Friendly in NSW. He replied there were some in Queensland,

but no areas like the Clarence Valley local government area in NSW.

Cr Williamson also invited the CMCA to hold a convention in the area.

Mr Watkins said the conventions, which attract more than 1000 vehicles, were booked until 2016, but he would take the invitation to the CMCA executive.

The committee also voted to defer discussion of a notice of motion from councillor Jeremy Challacombe dealing with similar issues to Tuesday's meeting.