



Proposal to welcome RVs to Winchelsea

BY JAMES TAYLOR

RECENT discussion about free camping in the region has not killed off proposals for accommodating travellers on the Surf Coast, with a suggestion that Winchelsea could become "RV-friendly".

Local advocacy group Growing Winchelsea Inc has made a submission to the Surf Coast Shire about designating part of the north-east Barwon River bank in the town for recreational vehicle (RV) camping at little or no cost for a two-year trial.

In the submission, Growing Winchelsea president Stu Fountain said for many years, RV owners had used the river banks for one-night and two-night breaks.

"The experience for both visitors and locals has been very positive, and the Winchelsea

community has generally welcomed the economic and social contributions made by these visitors."

He said enforcement officers from the shire had recently begun advising RV owners that they could not use the river banks for short-term camping, but there was considerable support in the community to designate Winchelsea as an RV-Friendly Town (RVFT).

The Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia developed the RVFT concept, which has spread to more than 200 towns across Australia.

To qualify as an RVFT, a town must have:

- Provision of appropriate parking within the town centre, including access to a general shopping area with groceries or fresh produce
- Provision of short term (24/48 hour) parking for self-contained vehicles within the town precinct
- Access to potable water, and
- Access to a free dump point within the town precinct.

Mr Fountain said not only would town would gain economic benefits from the proposal – RV owners spend between \$500-900 a week – but hospitality was also part of the ethos of the community.

"Many members of the community believe refusal to allow RV owners to stay overnight and enjoy Winchelsea and its surrounds is inconsistent with the community's welcoming culture, and are deeply uncomfortable about the perception it creates of the Winchelsea community."



The Campervan Motorhome Club of Australia promotes a network of RV-friendly towns across Australia, but there are none in the Geelong region.



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Lowood is now an RV friendly town

LOWOOD is now one of two nationally recognised RV Friendly Town's in the Somerset Regional Council region.

Kilcoy was the first to receive recognition from the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) as an RV Friendly Town and now, after a few improvements by Council, Lowood is on the list.

Self-contained motorhomes, campervans and caravans are permitted to stay for short and long term overnight parking (seven days) at the Lowood Showgrounds on Station Street.

The showgrounds is equipped with a free public dump point and potable water.

Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann said the recognition of Lowood as an RV Friendly town was a welcome boost for the region. "Not only will this attract more tourists coming to this beautiful town, it will help boost the local economy and our small business owners. Council is committed to attracting more tourists to Somerset and getting our towns

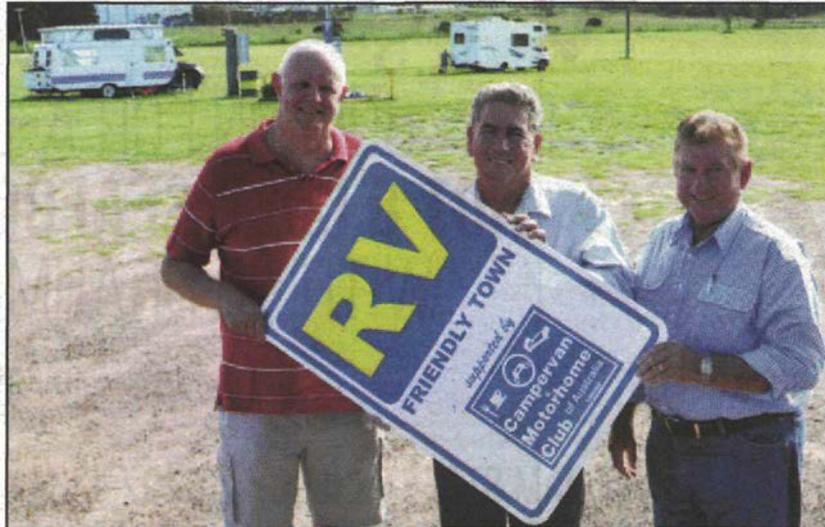
recognised across the country as RV Friendly townships is a huge, positive step forward. All our Somerset towns welcome RV travellers and most provide wide streets, free parking and shady parks to stop and refresh but we now have two major townships that meet all the requirements of a nationally recognised RV Friendly Town."

The Lowood Show Society manages the showgrounds with the assistance of caretaker David Wyman.

President Noel Kammholz said the news was fantastic. "We have quite a few people who use the facilities at the showgrounds to stay for up to a week and they enjoy it because of the amenities on offer, the peacefulness of the location and the picturesque backdrop. A lot of the people who stay here also enjoy shopping in town because they comment that you can get a lot of unique things from in town that you can't buy elsewhere. It's a great step for tourism and will certainly help with attracting more people to Lowood."

Street parking along Railway Street, Lowood is now permitted for RVs. Permit fees for Lowood will be \$10 per vehicle per night for a non-powered site and \$15 per vehicle for a powered site.

Signs will be installed at the main entrances to the township to inform passersby that the town is now nationally recognised as RV Friendly.



Lowood Showgrounds caretaker David Wyman, Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann and Lowood Show Society President Noel Kammholz are delighted with the news that Lowood is now an RV Friendly town.



Lowood is now friendly to RVs

LOWOOD is now one of two nationally recognised RV friendly towns in the Somerset Regional Council region.

Kilcoy was the first to receive recognition from the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia and now Lowood has made its way on to the list.

Self-contained motorhomes, campervans and caravans can stay for short and long term overnight parking at Lowood Showgrounds.

The showgrounds on Station St has a free public dump point and potable water.

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Somerset Mayor Graeme Lehmann said recognising Lowood as an RV friendly town was a welcome boost for the region.

"Not only will this attract more tourists coming to this beautiful town, it will also help to boost the local economy and our small business owners," Cr Lehmann said.

"Council is committed to attracting more tourists to Somerset and getting our towns recognised across the country as RV-friendly townships is a huge, positive

step forward."

The Lowood Show Society manages the showgrounds with the help of caretaker David Wyman.

President Noel Kammholz said that the news was absolutely fantastic.

"We have quite a few people who use the facilities at the showgrounds to stay for up to a week.

"They enjoy it because of the amenities on offer, the peacefulness of the location and the picturesque backdrop," Mr Kammholz said.

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Park sewage dump is on the nose for Lions

By LOUISE EDDY

BATHURST Regional Council's decision to install a sewage dump site in Berry Park is on the nose, according to members of the Lions Club of Bathurst who have developed and maintained the park for the past 40 years.

Club president Dale Cassidy said the park was a very popular spot for picnics, barbecues and exercise, adding that families and sewage don't mix.

"How would you feel if you were having a picnic and you got a waft of something unpleasant?" Mr Cassidy said.

The club holds its farmers' markets there twice a year when the showground is not available. Their sister club Bathurst Macquarie Lions Club also hold markets in the park.

Members are particularly annoyed that despite the fact they have invested countless volunteer hours in making the riverside venue a beautiful place for the community and visitors to enjoy, council did not consult with them prior to voting to put in a sewage dump for recreational vehicles.

"They never consulted with us in anyway – we heard about it in the media," he said.

The club planted extensive gardens, put in parking areas, barbecues and picnic tables, and worked with council in building a toilet block. It is near that toilet block that the RV dump will go – unfortunately that also puts it close to the picnic tables.

Mr Cassidy said the area is unsupervised and there are concerns that people might dump their waste and not clean up properly.

"Kids often play here. It's not right that they should have to avoid effluent," he said.

"Be RV-friendly by all means, but there are other options available."

Lions Club of Bathurst secretary Barbara Andrews said such a move would have an effect on members of the community who would have to endure the smell of effluent in the park.

Council has told the club the dump site must be close to water mains for wash down purposes.

"What if people don't wash it down properly. It will smell," Ms Andrews said.

"We want to ensure the park can be used by all the community, not just one sector.

"The dump will be within 100 metres of a barbecue facility which means the dump will be smack bang in the middle of where people are picnicking. There is one in the showground already. Why is there any need to put in another one 500 metres away?"

In a letter to the club, engineering director Doug Patterson said council had two existing dump points, one at the showground and another at the Waste Water Treatment Works, however these were not available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

He added that a number of sites were identified, but Berry Park was identified as the most suitable location.

"The proposed dump point has been recommended to be adjacent to the toilet block to minimise disruption to regular recreational users of Berry Park," Mr Patterson said.

'Be RV-friendly by all means, but there are other options available.'



STINKY: Barbara Andrews and Dale Cassidy of the Lions Club of Bathurst think putting a sewage dump close to the picnic tables and barbecues at Berry Park would be a bad idea. Photo: PHILL MURRAY



Caravans overstay their welcome

Tourists urged to dump and run

By Ben Chenoweth

AS an area with a strong focus on tourism, Wollondilly embraces visitors from all walks of life.

However, a recent trend in Appin has resulted in guests overstaying their welcome — to the bemusement and frustration of residents and the council.

Last year the council installed two dump points at Warragamba Picnic Area, Warradale Road, Warragamba and Appin Park, Appin.

There are also plans for a third in Picton.

The dump points provide tour-

ists passing through the shire with an opportunity to empty the waste from their caravans or motorhomes.

However, the smell of the waste hasn't been the only thing lingering around the site at Appin.

"Obviously if people have the ability to dump their waste and they see open spaces, they think it could be a good place to park," Wollondilly Council manager of compliance Robyn Cooper said.

"It has certainly caused some

angst with residents that visitors are using it [the site] as an unauthorised caravan park.

"I don't know what the attraction is — there is no river, there is no outlook."

As a result, the council has been forced to erect signs to inform visitors that camping is prohibited.

Ms Cooper said council rangers had removed about three groups of campers two weeks ago.

"Rangers were out there and

asked people to move on," she said. "Those people did obey.

"The people who were asked to move on were apologetic."

There are only two caravan sites in Wollondilly — the Oakdale Village Caravan Park and the Avon Caravan Village in Bargo.

Camden also has a caravan park — the Popular Tourist Park — about one kilometre north of the central business district, while there are several sites in Wollongong, including Coledale and Bulli.

The increase in overnight-campers also created a lot more rubbish at the site.