



## Organisers expecting an impressive rally tally

By **RACHEL FERRETT**

CAMPERVAN and motorhome owners are about to descend on Mount Panorama for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) 30th Anniversary Rally.

The club hosts two major rallies each year for its members, holding the events in different locations around the country.

Bathurst rally manager Colleen Walker said she and her husband, Col, are looking forward to bringing the autumn rally to their town.

"This is the first time in Bathurst; the last one was held in Albany," she said.

According to Ms Walker, what makes

Bathurst so suitable to host the rally is its iconic Mount Panorama, great facilities and proximity to a wealth of cultural attractions.

More than 1000 motorhomes have been registered for the event so far, with the "first-timers" expected to start arriving in town on April 23 ahead of the rally.

This rally is not just an opportunity to look at campervans and motorhomes, it is an entire festival of entertainment.

Members of the CMCA will be able to take

part in a range of workshops and activities, and see products from exhibitors.

"We've got over 70 traders; 30 of those are motorhome exhibitors and they are bringing about 40 motorhomes," Ms Walker said.

The program for the Bathurst rally includes an Anzac dawn service, seminars, dancing and a craft barn with sewing, painting and jewellery classes.

There will also be a Women's Shed and a Men's Shed established, featuring workshops, demonstrations and talks to suit each gender.

An open day will be held on Saturday, April 30 that members of the public are welcome to attend.

Entry will be a gold coin donation, with proceeds going to Bathurst Rural Fire Service.

For more information about the rally, visit [www.cmca.net.au](http://www.cmca.net.au).



**RALLYING THE TROOPS:** Bathurst rally managers Col and Colleen Walker, with Keith Small, ahead of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia rally at Mount Panorama later this month. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

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# New public RV dump point

SEYMOUR now has a new publicly available waste disposal point to provide caravan visitors with an important travel service for their vehicles.

Mitchell Shire Council Mayor Cr Sue Marstaeller said the new RV Dump Point better supports a portion of Mitchell Shire visitors that rely on this type of infrastructure for waste disposal.

"The point's location places visitors close to the Visitor Information Centre, township attractions and businesses," Cr Marstaeller said.

"This important piece of infrastructure was identified in the Goulburn River Valley Tourism destination management plan and aligns with council's strategy to support Mitchell's growing visitor economy."

Campervan and motorhome travellers are already taking advantage of the new RV Dump Point located on High Street, Seymour.

Seymour local and Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) spokes-

person, John Sporry said before the installation of this point, the nearest facilities were located in Yea and Heathcote.

"Research tells us that CMCA members spend an average of \$572 per week when travelling on the road, CMCA rallies, held bi-annually in different locations throughout Australia, also generate a significant financial benefit estimated to be between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million to the local economy," he said.

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) provided the waste disposal unit working in partnership with Mitchell Shire Council who managed the connection of the point to sewer and water services.

These connection costs were about \$5000 and were funded as part of the overall Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk project.

A full list of dump points is listed on the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia website <[www.cmca.net.au/services/dump-points](http://www.cmca.net.au/services/dump-points)>.



**At your convenience:** (from left) CMCA's John Sporry, Seymour VVAA Sub-branch President Ross Stewart and Mitchell Shire Council's Tim Partridge at the new point.



# Happy campers

Gundagai is gaining a good reputation in the ever-growing RV community, and local businesses are seeing the benefits.

The town became RV-friendly in 2014, with a 48-hour site on Morley's Creek and 72-hour on Pope Street.

With just a short walk to the main street precinct, happy campers have consistently been enjoying the 48-hour site, and are spreading the word.

The Gundagai Visitor Information Centre (VIC) sees RV travellers on a daily basis, with the centre taking 10 enquiries about the 48-hour site last Thursday alone.

"We find that many make a point of spending money in our town because we've provided that free site for them," said Council's economic development officer Miriam Crane.

"They're also more likely to explore the town because they've got the time, and that's exciting because they actually want to have a look around at everything we've got to offer.

"We've had people tell us that they're staying in Gundagai because of good recommendations from other campers, so word of mouth has been good for us as well."

Ms Crane said campers are keen to spend money on local produce at the VIC, while they also field many enquiries from RV trav-

ellers looking for good places to eat and spend their money in town.

"I think having both the 72-hour and 48-hour sites also provides a good balance for travellers because while some like the close proximity to the main street, the 72-hour site is great for people who don't want to be too close to town," she said.

Ron Moses, owner of Moeys, says he often gets RV travellers patronising his business.

"I've had travellers tell me that the Gundagai site is the best in New South Wales because of its close proximity to town," Mr Moses said.

"A lot of the free sites in other places are right on the edge of the town, while this one is on the main street doorstep. The convenience of people being able to walk up to the shops has been mentioned to me numerous times.

"If they're enjoying a good spot and getting a good bargain, they like to tell people about it. They often come in and tell me how much money they've spent in town. They appreciate the free site, and they like to patronise local businesses because of that.

"I think Gundagai has definitely benefitted from good reviews too. It's a huge community of RV travellers out there now and they all talk."

Mr Moses said many RVers are also very conscious of spreading their money around.

"I've had a lot say that while on a trip, every third stop they'll stay at a caravan park and pay for the services, so I think they're very aware and like to use both," he said.

Local butcher Bob Smart said he sees RVers in his shop every week.

"We get a fair few travellers on a weekly basis, and while it's hard to say because not everyone tells you what they're doing or where they're staying, I'd say at least two or three every week come in and say they're staying at the RV site," Mr Smart said.

"I think it's good for the town. A lot will tell me that they've walked up and will do a walk of the main street to see what we've got to offer."

The local op shop also sees and benefits from a steady stream of RVers, according to volunteers.

"We see them in here on an almost daily basis, wanting everything from clothes to kitchenware and toys," they said.

"They are generally lovely people, very keen to spend money in the town, and we often have them asking where's a good place to eat or where local tourist attractions can be found."



**Wednesday, April 6 2016**

**To Gundagai Council,**

We don't know whether council receives feedback from travellers passing through your town, but we wish to say thank you for providing the wonderful grassy free camp site off Landon Street and close to the township.

Having just completed a months travelling around Victoria and eastern South Australia and now heading home to Sydney, we weren't sure where to stop for our last night. A website used by many travellers gave positive reviews of Gundagai hospitality and conveniences, so we decided to look for ourselves. We were extremely happy with what the Council and people of Gundagai have provided, that instead of cooking we decided to patronise your community by spending money and having a nice meal in one of your hotels. We put a donation in the boxes at the RV park and the dump point, as well as spending a further \$71 the next day.

With more and more cashed up retirees taking to the roads 365 days a year around our beautiful country, it will be the RV friendly communities who welcome them by offering accommodation choice (decent free camp options), RV amenities (dump points/toilets) and ease of parking, that benefit from this rapidly growing section of society ready to spend money. Those communities who treat RVers "right of choice" with contempt will see their businesses suffer as tourists pass by to the next town.

Well done again,  
Terry and Michele Hayward