



Chance of a cheap camp by the river

FIVE carpark spaces at the popular Noosa River Holiday Park could soon offer an alternative to backpacker camper vans staying overnight illegally in local streets.

A report presented to Noosa Council yesterday said the holiday park option highlighted what may be a novel approach to an ongoing problem.

It said the park had "received interest from overnight van stay patrons – predominantly backpackers – to stay at the site at a reduced rate".

"The manager of the site has identified five car spaces adjacent to the boat ramp that would be appropriate for overnight van stays – typically a backpacker van.

"On consultation with the manager of the site, it is proposed that a fee of \$30 be included in the general cost recovery fees

and commercial charges schedule. This fee is a 25% discount off the tourist unpowered site rate and is designed to assist with reducing illegal camping within the shire."

Fees and charges for Noosa's council-run parks are set until the end of the summer peak season.

Council maintains an advance fees and charges schedule for the parks to

allow for the forward booking of sites by customers. Twice-yearly council reviews and amends the fees if necessary to maintain a forward booking period commensurate with industry standards. The report proposes the adoption of holiday park fees and charges until the end of the June-July 2017 school holiday period.

Proposed fee changes:

A review has been

undertaken of the current fee schedule with a view to simplify and consolidate the fee structure where available.

The following changes are recommended to be made to simplify the general cost recovery fees and commercial charges schedule, specifically:

- Fees and charges for weekly stays are deleted as the current weekly rate is

simply a multiplication of seven times the daily rate.

- Amend both the 'Extra Person- Under 16' fee and 'Extra Person – 16 & Over' fee to a single flat rate for extra persons over five-years; and delete references to the current listed peak and shoulder rates as these are identical to the flat rate.

- Deleting fees and charges for shoulder periods for Noosa North Shore Campground and

Boreen Point.

The report said all council business activities were required to operate on a full cost pricing basis to ensure the competitive neutrality principle is complied with. Fees have been reviewed and amended to ensure that cost recovery occurs.

A decision will be made next Thursday by councillors.



HAPPY CAMPERS: Backpacker vans could be finding cheap resting spots overnight at Munna Point.

PHOTO: PATRICK WOODS



Remember to shut the gate

MEMBERS of the public have been urged to make sure they close the gate behind them when accessing local Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR).

Northern Tablelands TSR and projects team leader Ross Fuller said the Crown Land reserves were originally established for the droving of sheep and cattle, and the 'Long Paddock' remained an important network for the movement of stock and a feed reserve for farmers in times of drought.

To raise funds for their ongoing maintenance, some reserves had been leased under longer-term arrangements by the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS).

"On all TSRs it's critical that TSR users ensure gates are closed behind them so that livestock are not able to stray," Mr Fuller said.

"Unfortunately we've had some recent incidents where reserve gates have been left open, which endangers stock, and also creates a risk to people, particularly if sheep or cattle stray on to public roads."

"It's common sense in the bush, that if you open a gate, you need to make sure it's closed again once you've passed through."

Mr Fuller said LLS would like people to continue to access and enjoy TSRs for passive recreational uses, such as bushwalking and fishing, but their use has to be in accordance with legislation and respectful of other users.

"When members of the public consistently fail to shut gates on the TSR network and allow stock to escape, as the managing authority Local Land Services is

forced to lock these gates to ensure the safety of livestock and the broader community," Mr Fuller said.

"This causes inconvenience to responsible TSR users, who then need to request a key to reserve gates through a Local Land Services office. We are also concerned about rubbish being illegally dumped on the TSRs, and damage caused by recreational four wheel drive vehicles.

"Recreational vehicle use is not permitted on TSRs and it is disrespectful and a health risk to the entire community when people use public reserves as rubbish dumps. Stock route reserves are valued for their social, cultural and environmental benefits."

For more information about the management of TSRs phone Ross Fuller on 6720 8100 or email ross.fuller@lls.nsw.gov.au



Travellers get warm welcome at Lyndhurst

By RACHEL FERRETT

LYNDHURST has been declared a RV Friendly Town by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA).

For a town to qualify for the program, it must successfully meet the needs of recreational vehicle travellers by providing access to the general shopping area, offering affordable overnight parking and access to potable water and a free dump point.

A town must also have a community and council that displays a positive attitude travellers would find welcoming.

Blayney Shire Council worked in partnership with the Lyndhurst community to assist Lyndhurst to qualify as an RV Friendly Town.

Mayor of Blayney Scott Ferguson has welcomed the new accreditation for Lyndhurst and said it would lead to great economic benefits for the town.

"We are pleased that Lyndhurst in the Blayney Shire has joined the ranks as one of the friendliest towns for campervans and motorhomes in Australia," he said.

"The designation of Lyndhurst as an official RV Friendly Town will encourage all RV travellers to stop, shop and enjoy the events, local food and wine and warm hospitality we have to offer here."

Cr Ferguson encourages all Lyndhurst residents and business owners to be welcoming and helpful to any recreational vehicle travellers they come across to drive word-of-mouth advertising. CMCA director, national consumer representative and government liaison Ken Kipping hopes that by identifying places that fall under the title of RV Friendly Town it will encourage the expansion of tourism-related infrastructure and services.

"It is great to see an increasing number of towns qualifying as RV Friendly," he said.



letters

RV friends

Dear Editor,

So VicParks has “declared” the City of Greater Geelong to be “RV-friendly”. RV users may not see it that way!

Roger Grant is quoted online as telling a recent VicParks conference that “not all tourism is good tourism”, and that non-compliant freedom camping is banned in the region because it’s in direct competition with commercial caravan parks.

Will this approach soon apply to the use of other free facilities used by RV-ers that are in “direct competition with commercial” premises?

If we stop at a park with a public barbecue, opposite some cafes, will we have to have our lunch at one of those cafes rather than use the council-provided barbecue? I think not!

If we want to stop overnight at a legal/publicly-provided free-camping area, will we be forced instead to patronise a commercially operated caravan park? In Geelong, yes we would!

Just as all consumers are not compelled to pay for fine dining when all they want is a hamburger, we don’t want to be compelled to pay for caravan park facilities that we choose not to – or cannot – use such as a swimming pool, jumping pillow, playground, tennis/basketball/volleyball court or camp kitchen. What we need is a reasonably level and secure parking place.

Why should caravan parks enjoy this highly favoured position of having an “official” organisation coercing potential patrons to have to stay when they don’t want to?

Of course the option available to RV-ers is not to make a stay in the Geelong area at all! RV-ers are mobile and can just move on to the next RV-friendly town.

Then who benefits? The caravan parks don’t in either case but except for perhaps a one-off stop at a supermarket or petrol station, all other businesses lose out!

Colac, Heathcote and Daylesford, here we come.

Richard Allen

Via email



Tavern set up to bring in RV-driven business

Third site in Clarence named 'friendly'

Tim Howard
Tim.Howard@dailyexaminer.com.au

ALTHOUGH it's not official yet, word-of-mouth advertising suggests that the Lawrence Tavern has become RV (recreational vehicle) Friendly.

The Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) confirmed on Friday that the tavern would soon receive its certificate, making it officially RV Friendly.

It will be the third site in the Clarence to get RV Friendly recognition from the peak body.

Maclean and Grafton have been designated RV Friendly towns because they have required facilities, including dump sites for sewerage and grey water.

A CMCA spokeswoman said it was only the tavern and not the Lawrence village that had received the RV Friendly tag.

She said the hotel had a well-grassed flat area for camping and had installed showers and toilets for people to use.

It was unlikely CMCA would provide dump-site equipment to the tavern, although the business could buy the equipment itself.

Tavern staff said the CMCA inspection of the facilities was remarkably informal.

"They sent a man out to check us out," employee Michelle Giffin said.

"He came, checked out the area out the back, the

showers and toilets and how close we were to the river and said we would have no problems.

"He was sitting up at the bar with his laptop and said, 'I'll fill it all out for you now'."

Ms Giffin said the tavern was motivated to provide the services when Clarence Valley Council erected No Camping signs after it received complaints about people staying overnight in

the park.

"I think it was only one person," she said.

"A lot of other people wanted the people to come here.

"They spent money at the pub and at the shop."

Ms Giffin said the tavern had a capacity for 10 RVs or a few more, depending on their size.

"At the moment we get a few a week," she said.

"I doubt we use half our capacity most of the time. We'll have to see how it goes."



Push for \$1.5m M'boro RV park

National club wants to build 40-site facility – now the council needs to get its RVs in gear or risk missing out

Hayden Johnson

THE Caravan and Motorhome Club Australia is aiming to build a 40-site RV park in Maryborough which could bring the town more than \$1.5 million annually.

As the council asks for public comment on changes to

allow caravan parks to build RV sites at a cheaper rate, the CMCA has opened their first self-managed park in Ingham, worth about \$1.5 million.

CMCA state representative for Queensland Richard Mainey told the Chronicle that the nation's peak tour-

ing body wants to open a similar site in the heritage city.

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Making Coast more inviting

CMCA plan for parks

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“There’s absolutely no reason we couldn’t replicate that (monetary injection) with a similar park in Maryborough,” he said.

“All we need the council to do is find us a suitable site.”

With basic services such as a dump point and potable water, Mr Mainey said the site would be managed by the CMCA and not have any burden on rate payers.

Four spaces are allocated short-term parking in the Allan and June carpark in Maryborough – and Mr Mainey said this was not enough to secure RV-friendly status or make a notable economic impact.

“If we could expand that to 12 spaces we could make Maryborough an RV-friendly town.

“The traveller has to make a conscious decision to drive into Maryborough or Hervey Bay. At the moment there’s a large portion that keep driving on by.”

Fraser Coast mayor Gerard O’Connell said the amendments to the council’s camping options strategy would

make it easier for private caravan park owners to establish RV sites.

“We have relaxed and reduced the infrastructure charges for caravan park owners to make this RV option more viable,” he said.

Cr O’Connell said the infrastructure charges had been reduced from \$10,000 to \$4,500.

“That gives them the option to charge less.”

“Their club members aren’t actually wanting free (parking) they want to make a contribution.”

“I think that will qualify us for RV friendly status.”

Mr Mainey said the CMCA had met formally with the council and it was up to them to allocate more space for RV’s.

“The ball is in the court of the council,” he said.

“All we need the council to do is find us a suitable site.”

– Richard Mainey