



# Becoming an RV friendly destination

YANKALILLA - Travellers in RVs will be enticed to stop at Yankalilla as the local council completes installation of a dump point in an effort to become an 'RV Friendly' district.

After lengthy discussions as to where the best site in the district would be to install the first dump point for recreational vehicles - more commonly known as RVs - the District Council of Yankalilla decided a site at Arthur Street, Yankalilla would be the most appropriate.

Motorists using RVs will

be able to dispose of grey water and sewage waste, at the dump point on unleased land adjacent to the CFS and emergency services site.

A development application for a service station in the area which accommodated for an RV dump point meant further discussion among elected members as to whether it would be worth having two points close by.

But with no guarantee on how long the service station would take to build, if approved, the council decided to continue with the

Yankalilla site in an effort to realise the RV Friendly destination dream faster, with councillors David Olsson, Leonie Fitzgerald, Janet Jones, and Bruce Spilsbury all making points as to why council should go ahead with the plan.

General waste bins will be provided at the site, as well as a tap with drinking water and a tap for general use.

Chief executive Nigel Morris said it would be ready for use in the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

- **DANI BROWN**



**DUMP HERE:** District Council of Yankalilla CE Nigel Morris looks at the plans for an RV dump point being installed at land next to the emergency services site. **Photo: Dani Brown**



# Working to welcome recreational 'boomers'

By **BRITTANY MURPHY**

**G**OULBURN Mulwaree Council will apply to become an 'RV Friendly Town'. Marketing, events and culture business manager Sarah Ruberto submitted a report to the council meeting on July 5, saying it was "increasingly important" the council provide facilities and services to attract the developing travel market.

The council's marketing team had been working towards official recognition as an 'RV Friendly Town' through the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, she said.

As the baby-boomer generation begins retirement travel, it is estimated there will soon be in excess of 100,000 RVs on the road at any given time.

"Over the past decade, the self-contained recreation vehicle (RV) market has continued to expand, emerging as one of the most important and sustainable sectors of the tourism industry," Mrs Ruberto said. "We are well positioned to capitalise on this expanding market . . .

"As this market continues to develop, consideration will need to be given to the provision of appropriate infrastructure including additional long vehicle parking, additional public areas for overnight stays and appropriate maintenance of the area where the public dump point is located."

Mrs Ruberto said the city needed to meet certain criteria to achieve the 'RV Friendly' tag, including services such as medical facilities, easy access to a retail centre, motor vehicle repair services, potable water and short- and long-term parking.

Funded from the 2015/16 budget, a free public dump point was installed at Rotary Park (Marsden Weir) last year, addressing environmental and health issues associated with the disposal of grey and black water waste. The rest of the criteria has already been met.

Councillors agreed to proceed with the application without discussion.



# Morgan RV friendly site denied, MMC

**SARA GILLIGAN**

DESPITE issues raised with current Morgan recreational vehicle (RV) friendly sites, Mid Murray Council (MMC) will not proceed with developing a proposed RV friendly site on crown land.

South Australian representative of the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia, Kevin Collins, raised concerns with the current sites on the eastern side of the river with council staff a few months ago.

He said that the sites were removed from Morgan's town centre, and required a ferry ride and drive to access local shops, minimising economic impact and site popularity.

MMC chief executive Russel Peate said following the discussion with Mr Collins, council staff investigated a vacant site close to the town centre as a potential new location.

The land, pictured below, sits next to the power substation site on the corner of First Street and Tenth Street.

Mr Peate said crown land officers told council staff that they had little information or interest in the land, and that they advised council to apply for care and control of the site.

However, in weighing up the costs and liabilities in managing the land, council decided against proceeding.

"Moving the RV friendly site was voted against in the June council meeting," Mr Peate said.

"Council still believes that the current camping and RV friendly sites should remain the same."

Meanwhile, Mr Peate said Morgan Primary School had raised concerns about people camping near the Morgan Sporting Complex.

"The complex is next to the school so council decided there should be no camping or overnight stays at the Morgan Sporting Complex, and that signage be installed to that effect," he said.

## Morgan RV Friendly Town Scheme council recommendations:

1. No camping or overnight stays of RVs be allowed at the Morgan Sporting Complex;
2. Signage be installed, as per discussions agreed, at the Morgan Sporting Complex that highlights the availability of:
  - a. the dump point
  - b. the alternate sites for camping and RVs including the

Morgan Caravan Park and national parks on the eastern side of the river at Morgan; and

3. The regulatory services team to monitor usage to ensure compliance with signage. Further, that correspondence be sent to the Morgan Primary School reflecting the above.



**THE** crown land on the corner of First Street and Tenth Street that was considered for an alternative Morgan camping and RV friendly site. PHOTOS: Supplied



**MID** Murray Council will install signs near the Morgan Sporting Complex prohibiting camping and RV overnight stays.



# Fraser Coast is bypassed by RV market: CMCA

## Council not concerned about no RV-friendly status

**Hayden Johnson**  
Hayden.Johnson@apn.com.au

HAD it not been for the free stop-and-shop site on Beck Rd in Urangan, Geoff and Dot Charlton would not have visited the Fraser Coast.

By spending a minimum of \$10 in town, the couple from Canberra was able to stay free at the site for one night on their way back home.

"We wouldn't have come into Hervey Bay if they didn't have it," Dot said.

Spending an average of \$35 a day, Geoff said the caravanning and camping community would travel to places that catered for them.

"We like to support the towns that support us," he said.

There are thousands of couples like Geoff and Dot traversing the nation's highways and stopping in communities.

Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia Queensland representative

Richard Mainey has spent the last two nights in Maryborough.

Today he will meet with divisional councillor Anne Maddern about improving the region's offering to RVs.

The focus will be on improving the RV situation in the southern Fraser Coast.

"The attempt of a stop-and-shop at Tiaro hasn't worked," Mr Mainey said.

"We're trying to work with council to install a dump point in Tiaro which

will facilitate more people using that stopover - we would like to see council upgrade that facility."

Mr Mainey said he was not able to meet with mayor Chris Loft as he was

unavailable.

Ms Maddern said she would enter today's meeting

with Mr Mainey "with a completely open mind".

"It's all about putting in place processes to grow and develop (the RV market)," she said.

Mr Mainey said the CMCA was working "desperately"

to "see Maryborough at least become an RV-friendly town".

It is estimated there are more than 500,000 registered RVs in the nation with Queensland having the most.

Currently there are four free spaces at the Allan and June carpark.

"That can't happen because we don't have enough short-term overnight spaces," he said.

"We need to be talking one dozen to 20 spaces."

But tourism councillor Stuart Taylor said the council was happy with the current situation and not

concerned about a lack of RV-friendly status.

"I don't see it being an issue but that is a brand of one organisation, not of the entire industry," he said.

"Whether or not you've got RV friendly status, I don't think it's a prohibiting factor.

"If we have a quality product, boost our product range, what sort of tours we have and what sort of opportunities - we will see growth."

Cr Taylor said the council reviewed the Camping Options Strategy earlier this year, and would continue to work with commercial park operators.

He said the council made changes to lower council

fees and allow existing caravan park operators to offer low-cost camping sites for RVs.



“It is a holistic approach,” he said.

“We believe commercial operators should have the first opportunity to provide that service (RV spaces).”

In January the CMCA also revealed an intention to build a 40-site RV park in Maryborough, which could

bring the town more than \$1.5 million annually.

Asking the council to provide a suitable site, Mr Mainey said the site could be managed by the CMCA and not have any burden on ratepayers.

“In reality, council have basically put a road block on that,” he said yesterday.

Mr Mainey said the council insisted on having toilets on the site, which he claims is unnecessary due to many RVs being

self-contained.

The CMCA representative said he could understand Cr Taylor wanted to assist existing commercial operators, but ultimately the decision where to stay would reside with the RV traveller.

“It’s an issue when council forces, dictates and pushes people into commercial parks – it’s not working now and it’s not going to work in the future,” Mr Mainey declared.

Mr Mainey will meet Cr

Maddern on his way back to Brisbane.

On Wednesday night he stayed in Monto, spending \$176.48 in the town. “That’s the potential benefit of RVs,” he said. “There are record numbers of RVs on the road and Fraser Coast is missing out on that market.”

**“It’s an issue when council forces, dictates and pushes people into commercial parks – it’s not working now and it’s not going to work in the future.**

— Richard Mainey



STOPPING BY: Dot and Geoff Charlton from Canberra at the Discovery Sphere after spending a night at the RV Stop-and-Shop site in Urangan.  
PHOTO: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN



# Let's make this place RV friendly



**OUR SAY**  
**JORDAN PHILP**  
ACTING EDITOR

AN ESTIMATED \$1.5 million could be injected into the Fraser Coast economy annually if we had better facilities to host RVs.

That's a lot of money that could be going into the cash registers of our local shops.

That's a lot of people who won't get to experience our beautiful Heritage City and the sights it has to offer.

Let's be realistic, the limited free RV sites that the Fraser Coast Regional Council currently offers is not enough to bring in the grey nomads in great numbers. Just 100km up the road there's plans in Bundaberg for an RV

superpark. They see the potential. There's examples all over Queensland where tired local economies are reinvigorated by the RV market once putting in free stay sites. I hope when councillor Anne Maddern meets with the CMCA today they can make some progress for more sites to be made available.

Word travels quickly in grey nomad groups – it's time we make the Fraser Coast RV friendly.

Let's not pass up an annual \$1.5 million opportunity.



# Tiaro to bid for RV sign

THE Tiaro Chamber of Commerce will make an application to the Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia to give the highway town RV-friendly status.

Chamber president Darryl Stewart said the group was in the process of preparing and lodging the application.

With Petrie Park and behind the Royal Hotel available to RVs, Mr Stewart believes the club would grant the town the status.

Mr Stewart dismissed Fraser Coast Regional Council's tourism councillor Stuart Taylor's concern about the affects changes to

the RV market would have on commercial caravan parks.

"The people who stay at caravan parks will always stay at caravan parks, including some RVs who stop to charge their batteries and do their washing," Mr Stewart said. "These people are like turtles - they carry their homes on their back," he said.

Mr Stewart agreed with the CMCA's calls for the Fraser Coast Regional Council to install a dump point at Tiaro.

He said the "decent septic tank would only need to be cleaned once every two or

three months".

Australian Caravan Club Queensland representative Ray Cornall praised the council for its due diligence and said it should "keep doing what it's doing".

Mr Cornall said the council should apply for the ACC's sign welcoming all recreational vehicles.

He is also pushing the council to improve the state of the stop-and-shop in Hervey Bay.

Mr Cornall said a free camping site could be established opposite the Hervey Bay Historical Museum in Zephyr St in Scarness.



Licensed by Copyright Agency.  
You may only copy or  
communicate this work with a  
licence.

# DEMPSEY DRIVES BUNDY RV PARK DREAMS

Council  
on the  
hunt for  
suitable  
location

RV DRIVERS will think twice before bypassing Bundaberg as mayor Jack Dempsey paves the way for an RV superpark. **FULL STORY: PAGE 3**





Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

# RV plan is rolling on

## Wheels turning for superpark

**Jim Alouat**  
Jim.Alouat@news-mail.com.au

BUNDABERG is a step closer to having an RV superpark, which could make the region a tourism haven for the almost 500,000 RV owners across Australia.

Yesterday, Bundaberg Regional Council confirmed it was in the process of identifying a suitable location that could be leased as an RV park.

This would mean maintaining the park would come at no cost to ratepayers.

Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia is hoping to establish a land-lease agreement with council to manage the facility – similar to one it has in Ingham, which has a capacity for 50 self-contained vehicles on site at any one time.

CMCA says the Ingham site has generated more than \$1.5 million for Ingham's economy.

CMCA Queensland spokesman Richard Mainey said he had been in talks with the council since last year when he was invited to make a presentation.

“At the conclusion of that, CMCA was asked to draft a proposal regarding a CMCA RV park for Bundaberg,” he said.

“We did that in January and that was favourably received.”

The council elections put brakes on the process here in Bundy but it has since picked up momentum.

“A site in Bundaberg would operate all year so it would be beneficial to a lot of businesses in the Bundaberg region,” Mr Mainey said.

“Obviously the closer the site is to the town centre the greater the economic impact will be.

“When you have 50 vehicles with the potential to spend \$100 a day you're looking at a substantial benefit.”

Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey made a strong case for an RV superpark during the election campaign saying at the time that Bundaberg was missing out on potentially millions of dollars.

Yesterday, Cr Dempsey said discussions with CMCA had canvassed issues such as bringing the CMCA National Rally to the Bundaberg region, which the council believed would provide significant visitor exposure to the region as

well as establishing Bundaberg's reputation as an RV-friendly town.

“We will maintain discussions with CMCA and involve all stakeholders to ensure we achieve outcomes that are the best for the Bundaberg region, our business people and, of course, those users of self-contained recreation vehicles,” he said.

Cr Dempsey hoped other councils in the Wide Bay would work together to promote a unified approach to RV parks.

**“When you have 50 vehicles with the potential to spend \$100 a day you're looking at a substantial benefit**

— Richard Mainey



Licensed by Copyright Agency.  
You may only copy or  
communicate this work with a  
licence.



**RELAXING REGION: RV owners Ken and Judy Reed from Wollongong with dog Charley plan on returning in the future to Bargara.**

PHOTO: PAUL DONALDSON BUN150716RV2



# RV trial to encourage visitors to stay longer

**Chris Holmes**

GREY nomads will be able to take advantage of cheap overnight parking close to the Innisfail CBD soon in a trial plan to entice visitors to stay longer in the region.

Councillors approved the plan to allow self-contained recreational vehicle's to park on a block of land on the corner of Ernest St and Park St near Callendar Park at a Cassowary Coast Regional Council meeting on Monday.

Council will not provide any facilities and travellers will have to pay \$15 per night per vehicle with a maximum stay of 48 hours.

The site will allow parking for about 12 RVs.

Mayor John Kremastos said the trial was not intended to take business away from caravan parks.

"I think it'll be a good way to measure what opportunities we're missing out on with the RV owners who don't use the parks that are available," he said.

"It's not free camping - there is a charge allocated.

"It's important to stress that in no way are we going into competition with caravan park

owners, this is purely to test the water and we're aiming for people that don't normally go to caravan parks."

Deputy mayor Rick Taylor said a similar scheme had been working in Tully on a smaller scale for a number of years.

"There are people who want to use caravans parks, and there are those that will never book into a caravan park, but if we don't provide these places in town, they'll just park out of town somewhere and we'll never get anything out of that," he said.

"One of the economic drivers behind this is that they'll be close to town so they can pull up of an afternoon and walk into town and spend some money."

He said the parking area in Tully had been increased this year to allow more visitors to stay and businesses had already seen the benefits.

"I'm getting comments all the time from business owners in town saying how positive it's been having these extra people in town," he said.

"Visitors are talking to the business owners and saying they're loving the opportunity to visit and spend some cash while they're here."



**VISITORS APPROVE**

RV owners Richard and Lorraine Riley from the Gold Coast in Innisfail, said most free sites were a long way out of town and approved of the council's trial.

"We try and stay in free sites as much as possible and don't have a problem paying \$15 or \$20 a night," Mr Riley said.

"We're self-contained and don't need power - I think it's a great idea."

Picture: CHRIS HOLMES



# We're RV ready for grey nomads

BY DONNA SHARPE

MAITLAND is now a recognised recreational vehicle (RV) and caravan destination following the approval of a dumping station at Maitland Visitors' Information Centre.

Maitland City Council endorsed the location at a recent meeting which also heard that council had previously approved a caravan park at Thornton.

News of the caravan park came as a surprise to some councillors who said they were unaware of the development approval.

Mayor Peter Blackmore told the meeting about the Thornton approval and that another site for a similar development was under investigation.

Council's Development and Environment Manager David Simm said council approved a caravan park on Thornton Road, Thornton, in August 2015.

He said there are a total of 80 sites, 52 long term and

28 short term, in the proposal lodged by the applicant Thornton's Premier Caravan Park c/o Doring Design Merewether.

Mr Simm said council has also received interest for another caravan park in the Tenambit/Morpeth area.

Cr Steve Procter said the projects would be an enormous benefit to the city.

He said the developer of

another caravan park once flagged for Mt Dee Road, Telarah a couple of years ago, was frustrated with delays as a result of the construction of The Hunter Expressway.

"That was a very difficult time because there was so much road work going on when the developer was keen," Cr Procter said.

"There was a lot happening with The Hunter Expressway and it was difficult to do road counts and I think that developer lost interest because the process was so slow," he said.

Cr Procter said there was also interest in land near the

airport for a caravan park but that did not eventuate.

"There was also a plan to establish a park at Walka but the infrastructure wasn't there for a toilet system and power had to be upgraded," he said.

He said the new dump point marries up well with work being carried out on Harold Gregson reserve where there will be provision for between 60 and 100 RVs for short stays - up to 72 hours.

Cr Procter said there are plans to raise the ground at Harold Gregson Reserve, install bitumen hard stands, table and chairs to accommodate 12 vans. He said there is also a large grassed area behind the skate park and model car track which he said could easily accommodate 60-100 vehicles.



## EDITORIAL

# Grey nomads could boost region's economy

**I**T's welcome news that Maitland is being recognised as a recreational vehicle (RV) and caravan destination.

The recognition comes after Maitland City Council approved a dumping station at Maitland Visitor Information Centre last week – an essential facility for travelers with motor homes.

It comes after council approved plans for a caravan park at Thornton last August.

It's understood that council has received interest about another possible caravan park for the Tenambit-Morpeth area.

Council also has plans to raise the ground at Harold Gregson Reserve, opposite the visitors' centre, and develop space for 12 vans.

These might seem like relatively trivial decisions to some people, but they have potentially powerful implications for Maitland.

Cr Steve Procter, a caravan enthusiast himself, said the projects would be an enormous benefit to Maitland.

And it's hard to disagree.

Cr Procter said the developer of another caravan park once flagged for Telarah a couple of years ago was frustrated with delays as a result of the construction of The Hunter Expressway.

"That was a very difficult time because there was so much road work going on when the developer was keen," he said.

"There was a lot happening with the Hunter Expressway and it was difficult to do road counts and I think that developer lost interest because the process was so slow.

"There was also a plan to establish a park at Walka but the infrastructure wasn't there for a toilet system and power had to be upgraded."

The city's willingness to embrace RV and caravan travelers shows a desire to expand tourism in the Maitland area.

With Maitland's increasingly vibrant city centre, food venues and rural outlooks, it's easy to see how this place would appeal to people whether they are on a weekend trip

or traveling around Australia.

We are also a stone's throw from one of the nation's most famous wine regions and close to the beaches and city attractions of Newcastle.

These new facilities would encourage people, who would otherwise have passed by, to stop and spend some money in the town – which is a plus for Maitland businesses.

It would also help the city's tourism efforts if those travelers spread the word about Maitland and what it has to offer.

