



Off to school we go End of era for campers

Anger at loss of Kingy campsites

Alina Rylko

alina.rylko@tweeddailynews.com.au

A PETITION to save Kingscliff South caravan park is gathering momentum, with almost 2500 people opposing a reduction in space of the popular camping spot.

A section of the park is expected to be cut to make way for other public facilities under a \$20 million plan by Tweed Shire Council to redevelop the foreshore of the Tweed Coast village.

The petition was sparked after news last December council had secured \$9 million in funding from the Federal Government, allowing plans to go ahead.

Park manager Richard Adams said under the plan, a reduction of sites from 176 to 61 was necessary to make way for an erosion seawall; more beach access and open space for recreation.

He said the plans had been drawn up following widespread community consultation.

"The new seawall will protect the newly created central park, bowls club, surf

club which is under threat," he said.

Mr Adams said the new caravan park sites would replace existing 45-year-old sites, and would be larger to accommodate modern camper vans and vehicles.

He said 57 longterm "exclusive" caravan parks sites, which were casually used by their owners, will no longer be available.

"No-one will have the exclusive use of NSW public land, as a matter of equity, we're making it a park where everyone's welcome," Mr Adams said.

"We have consulted with local business chambers, sports clubs, fishermen... for many years to establish this - it is what the locals want."

But park visitor of 18 years Margaret Bailey said permanent renters believed the reduction in sites was an attack on the tradition of camping.

"There will be less sites for people and some of them have been coming in for 30 or 40 years, it's an Australian tradition," she said. The Brisbane resident, who hired a site for \$120 a week, said: "We feel we've had a great time and our time is coming to an end."



ATTACK ON TRADITION: Margaret Bailey and supporters want to preserve Kingscliff South holiday park. PHOTO: SCOTT POWICK



Macarthur motorhome friendly

MACARTHUR is now a 'motorhome friendly town' thanks to help from Moyne Shire's Community Assistance Fund.

The Macarthur Advancement Development Association has used the Community Assistance Fund to install power heads at the Macarthur Recreation Reserve.

President of the Macarthur Advancement Development Association, John Bragg said that the town had no need

to advertise or promote the new facilities for recreational vehicles (RVs).

"It's just all word of mouth. We are getting a constant number of motorhome visitors at the reserve and are looking forward to welcoming more visitors to the only motorhome friendly town in the Moyne Shire," he said.

The reserve also supplies a dump point and safe drinking water for recreational vehicles. Moyne Shire's Community

Assistance Fund aims to build stronger communities within the shire.

It provides for projects, equipment, programs or activities that will assist in the ongoing development or creation of sustainable programs to meet the needs of residents.

In 2015 council allocated \$232,000 for the Community Assistance Funding program



RV TOURISM

Time to act is now

Region will miss out on millions if council hesitates

IF THIS Mayor and council want to do one last thing before the March elections, they need to act fast on the RV park proposed by the CMCA.

The CMCA don't do things by halves and everything is done properly, this will bring millions to this small town, just what is needed to help our struggling businesses.

If they don't act swiftly it will be offered and taken up by another town and once again we will miss out.

We have an eyesore in Kent St where the old shipyards were, which would be ideal for this and it's walking distance to town, anyone with a large motorhome or caravan can't park in town, so needs to be able to walk to the shops.

If this isn't suitable I'm sure they could find another piece of land close to town to



The council must act fast if it is to secure the lucrative RV market for the region.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

accommodate them.

But for goodness sake, don't muck around, do this now.

There are lots of people that will support this.

**PAM MCKENZIE
Oakhurst**



Pitch camp and get away

NEWCASTLE kicks off the year in a big way with the annual Caravan and Camping Expo to be held from Friday, February 5 to Sunday, February 7 at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground.

"It's our largest annual regional expo, and this year it will showcase more than 180 exhibitors displaying all the latest products and equipment," Caravan and Camping Industry Association (CCIA) NSW chief executive officer Lyndel Gray said.

"Come along and compare the hundreds of brands and products on display, and check out the best that the caravan and camping industry offers.

"Talk direct to the exhibitors who will have their latest products on display and get their expert advice to help make your next caravan or camping holiday even better.

"The Expo is an easy and convenient way to see a huge range of products, brands,

camping gear, accessories, and to research what's on offer at some of our amazing holiday parks across the state."

There will be lots of entertainment for all ages - with free face painting, a jumping castle and rides for the children, and free towing demonstrations onsite from industry experts, Tow Ed.

You'll find plenty of food and refreshment options,

indoor and outdoor displays and free parking.

Bring the whole family along for a great day of fun and discovery.

There is easy and convenient access to the Expo from Broadmeadow railway station and free parking can

be accessed via the Griffiths Road entry.

There is also additional free parking at Hunter Stadium and a free shuttle bus will operate between the stadium and the Newcastle

Entertainment Centre and Showground.

Disabled access is provided throughout the Newcastle Expo (although there will be no wheelchair hire available).

The Expo is dog friendly but all pooches must be on a leash at all times. And remember, when entering the

indoor pavilions at the Expo, dogs must be carried.

The Newcastle Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo takes place over three days, Friday, February 5 to Sunday, February 7 with gates open from 9am-5pm (4pm Sunday).



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Whether you're new to caravan and camping or an avid enthusiast, you're sure to find something to suit.



RV TOURISM

Strange format

Fraser Coast needs to attract lucrative market

FEEDBACK is always welcome but the format of some online surveys being run by council candidates on the Fraser Coast is questionable.

For example, a yes-no survey by Geoff Redpath of Division 6 voters in Point Vernon and Pialba asks voters if they are in favour of "Free RV parking close to the Esplanade and or CBD."

A 100% "no" vote would probably be the result but no one to my knowledge has advocated free RV parking near or on the Esplanade or the Pialba CBD, if that is the CBD to which he refers.

RV lobbyists have always pushed for low-cost parking for self-contained vehicles in Maryborough, as close to the CBD as possible and at other areas such as the unused land at the airport.

The Fraser Coast needs the dollars that would be injected into our economy if we could tempt the lucrative RV industry here.

The majority of RV users are retired baby boomers, on the road for months or travelling indefinitely.

Baby boomers are sought-after tourists and Maryborough, compact with museums, charm and



The Fraser Coast needs the dollars that would be injected into our economy if we could tempt the lucrative RV industry here, one reader says.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

services, ticks all the boxes for them. From there they can fan out daily to the rest of the Fraser Coast.

Making Maryborough an RV capital will lessen the risk of overnighters blocking Esplanade views.

I trust results of poorly worded surveys with closed questions aimed at a small section of voters will not be waved by candidates or

elected councillors as reason to detract from progressive action aimed at lifting the Fraser Coast low socio-economic status.

Perhaps it is time to rethink the wisdom of divisions if they encourage narrow thinking at the expense of building a stronger region.

NANCY BATES
 Tinana