



Albany gets ready for CMCA rally

More than 800 caravans and motorhomes will descend on Albany this weekend for a week-long national rally, and City of Albany councillor and rally manager Vince Calleja has been busy putting the final preparations in place to welcome them.

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Picture: Laurie Benson

Town ready for big caravan rally

Talitha Wolfe

More than 800 caravans and motorhomes will start arriving in Albany tomorrow for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's 30th National Rally.

It will be the first time the city has hosted the event, with members travelling thousands of kilometres across the country to take part from this Saturday to next Sunday, November 1.

First-time CMCA ralliers are expected to arrive tomorrow from 9.30am to noon, while regular participants will arrive on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday from 7.30am.

Albany rally manager Vince Calleja said the CMCA rally was expected to inject more than \$2 million into the local economy.

"The economic benefits are very substantial, just to have the rally here," he said.

"The big bonus for Albany is the fact that this will be a destination that they will return to.

"Some people have never been to Albany before and the bush telegraph works very strongly."

City of Albany manager of tourism development and services Matt Bird said there were long term benefits in marketing and attracting major events like the CMCA rally to the Albany.

"The City of Albany has been proactive in attending industry expos and consumer trade shows and will continue to focus on attracting more interest in Albany as a holiday and event destination," he said.

To deal with the large influx of

motorhomes, the City of Albany will initiate a traffic management plan which will direct rally vehicles from Albany Highway through Menang Drive across to Chester Pass Road before they head down North Road, where the left lane is planned to be dedicated to motorhome traffic until the Lockyer Avenue turnoff. Lockyer Avenue will be closed to local traffic from North Road to the first gate at Centennial Park.

Though the rally is for members only, there will be opportunities for motorhome and caravanning enthusiasts to talk to members at the public open day next Saturday, October 31, from 9am-3pm

Tell us what you think. Email subsdesk@albanyadvertiser.com or send us a letter.





Ron Steen, Don Martin, Don Tomlinson and Paul Jensen set up for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia National Rally. Picture: Laurie Benson



Months of preparation for mammoth motorhome move

Talitha Wolfe

A few months ago, the first volunteers for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia arrived in Albany to scope out the Centennial Oval grounds in preparation of its 30th national rally.

The CMCA, the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, travels to regional areas nationwide every October for the rally.

The logistical feat takes 12 months to plan and more than 200 volunteers to organise.

Every detail is considered and prepared for, including trucking three shipping containers filled

with everything from photocopyers and desk chairs to tins of Milo and 5km of water reticulation pipe.

CMCA maintenance co-ordinator Paul Jensen, who travelled from Tin Can Bay in Queensland to help prepare the site, said each site needed to be inspected for water

and power capabilities, local amenities, site layout and what buildings were available for use.

"It's a fairly big task, but it comes together quite well," he said.

"We inspect the grounds to see where we are going to organise to see where we are going to put everything.

"People come over at various stages to assess the site in preparation for the rally."

Mr Jensen said the volunteer crew consists of events co-ordinators, security and events control, a rally manger and secretary as well as an administration and meet-and-greet team.



Dump point causes stink

WALPOLE'S RV dump point, where caravans and campervans dump their liquid waste, malfunctioned earlier this month provoking new comment about its location.

"How can we hold our heads up proud as a litter-free town when we have raw sewage running out over the ground in the very spot where visitors come?" local businessman Ivan Gardner said.

The facility overflowed on a Saturday morning leaving human waste on the ground within 25 metres of the Visitor Centre, and 125 metres of a café/restaurant that serves meals out of doors.

A Manjimup Shire spokesperson said an alarm began sounding on Friday, October 9, to indicate the dump point

tank was almost full.

"The Shire instructed a contractor to assess the situation and redirect the waste to prevent overflow, but unfortunately these instructions were not followed," she said.

An investigation showed a burnt-out pump and other

technical problems caused the overflow.

Shire President Wade DeCampo said the area was treated with lime, cordoned off and had since been cleaned up.

"It is unacceptable that the overflow occurred, however when Shire officers attended the site, the risk to public health was deemed minimal as the breach was contained to a small area," he said.

Mr Gardner said the Walpole, Nornalup and Districts Community Development Group (CDG) had asked for the facility to be located by the town's boat ramp.

"All the RVs (recreational vehicles) that used it would see the inlet because people who go through town don't even know we're on the water," he said.

"Visitors using that facility would then see there's an inlet and possibly stay a day or two."

Mr DeCampo said this would have been more expensive to install and would have caused

traffic problems with boat trailers and potentially worse environmental problems.

"We would have had more people worried about conflict between boats and RVs if we

had have put that at the boat ramp," he said.

"In summer you'd see the boat ramp car park is absolutely chock-a-block full of boats."

He said the Shire positioned the RV dump believing it would not overflow, but an overflow in the town park had had fewer consequences than what would have been an overflow into the marine park.

He said the facility's present location also did a better job of encouraging visitors to stay.

"It's in the centre of town, it entices them to look in the main street and look in the Visitor Centre," he said.

The Shire anticipates the dump point system will be functioning again in the week commencing October 26.



Another industry award for Jayco

JAYCO Newcastle has won the Best NSW Regional Dealer category at the recent NSW Caravan and Camping Industry Association's annual excellence awards.

It is the second industry award to be presented to the Heatherbrae dealership – which also features a state-of-the-art service and accessories centre – this year.

In August it took out the Excellence in Customer Service Award at the Hunter Business Awards.

Jayco Newcastle has also recently been announced as a finalist for the Motor Traders' Association of New South Wales Motor Industry State Awards which will take place in November.

Jayco Newcastle is the largest reseller of Jayco products in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.



Shire stops trial

The proposed short-term overnight parking trial (STOP) for recreational vehicles (RV) at Jemmys Point, Lakes Entrance, will not go ahead, East Gippsland Shire Council has revealed.

A trial was to start following community consultation, however council requested further investigation by its staff.

Officers looked into the existence of free RV parking in other Victorian and New South Wales' shires and the policy positions taken by other shires.

Shire mayor, Cr Peter Neal, said the research showed while there were a number of 'RV Friendly Towns' throughout Victoria, not many are in key visitor destinations.

"There are 38 Victorian towns formally endorsed as 'RV Friendly Towns' by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia. Absent from the list are towns such as those along the Great Ocean Road and around Port Phillip Bay," Cr Neal said.

"Some Councils were also looking to remove towns from the list as they adopt an RV policy.

"We adopted a Recreational Vehicle Development Plan Framework in 2010, which has resulted in enhanced or new facilities to cater for the RV market. East Gippsland Shire has

four free overnight parking locations for RVs; Genoa, Swift's Creek, Omeo and Metung," Cr Neal said.

"Although we will not be proceeding with the trial at Jemmys Point, our objectives for the RV market remain unchanged.

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Commercial options

From page 1

"That is, to encourage visitors to the region and to ensure there is no illegal camping on the foreshore at Lakes Entrance.

"Where illegal camping is identified, our community laws officers will continue to advise RV owners of the commercial options available for overnight or longer stays in Lakes Entrance, and also free locations such as Metung, Burnt Bridge and Log Crossing."

To help the RV community to identify where camping is permitted, an audit will be undertaken of existing signs on public land and car parks across the shire to ensure it meets the needs of the RV community.

"Council officers will work with other public land managers to identify suitable sites to support the RV market visiting Lakes Entrance. They will also engage with caravan park owners to determine their capacity and willingness to support RVs and develop promotional tools to attract RVs to their businesses," Cr Neal said.

The free camping topic has been a regular agenda item for the Lakes Entrance Action and Development Association, and the idea was a cause for concern among local caravan park operators, given their high representation in the area.



Home is wherever the Kea is

DAVID HUDLESTON

KEA campervans and motorhomes let you enjoy the good times while on the road.

They are built on either a European Mercedes Benz or VW chassis and fitted with a six-speed Shiftmatic automatic gearbox that combines the functionality of an automatic with the characteristics of a manual gearbox.

The 2.2-litre, four cylinder turbo diesel delivers 100km for 13 litres with a 75 litre tank.

Diesel heating allows the campervan to be heated while driving and the bathroom can be used as a drying room for wet clothes or walking boots.

They are designed with comfort and convenience in mind with big beds, solar panels, large water tanks, DVD players, microwaves and rangehoods, wine glass holders and panoramic windows and large storage spaces

Safety features include power steering, airbags, dynamic stability control, ABS, rear airbag suspension and three-point seat belts.

Security features include key-lock bonnets, engine immobilisers and laptop-size safes. These vehicles are made for Australian conditions with insulation and built-in heating for cold winters, tinted windows for hot summer days and a body made from marine-grade fibreglass.

They are also environmentally friendly with interior timber and veneer from renewable plantations. Engines comply to the highest European and international emissions standards, and all vehicles are certified to the

Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's stringent "leave no trace self-

containment" guidelines.

These campers can be driven on an ordinary licence and are easy to manoeuvre.

The KEA 6 KQ motorhome has all the comforts of home.

The large, spacious interiors with two separate living areas offer real flexibility and let the outdoors in through incredibly large windows – without the mozzies.

Kids love the Luton bed above the driver's cabin. If it's not a bed it can function as a cave to play in or laze around in.

The kitchen is equipped with a large fridge/freezer, four-burner gas cooker, pantry, microwave and mini-grill.

It comes with a shower and toilet, three large double beds, only two of which have to be put away for day travel. It also has extra-large water storage tanks to help out with freedom camping.

As a general note, campers with toilets and showers mean that you can do a lot more free camping at roadside stops, national parks and places with little to no facilities.

The three-berth 2+1KQ campervan offers a couple or two adults and child plenty of space to relax after a day of exploring. The third passenger seat is positioned directly behind the driver, so your child can be close to you while on the road.

It also has an external slide-out barbecue and reverse-cycle airconditioning to make life easier on the road.

The kitchen has a stainless steel three-burner gas stove, 110

litre fridge/freezer, rangehood extractor fan, microwave and filtered water.

**WA dealer: KB Campers, 54
Rigali Way Wangara
www.kbcampers.com.au**



Sunday Times (Perth), Perth

01 Nov 2015, by David Hudleston

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Above, left and right, the KEA 6 KQ motorhome has all the comforts of home to allow for luxury while freedom camping. Below, three-berth 2+1KQ campervan offers plenty of space to relax for a couple, or two adults and child,





EDITORIAL

Wilks Park restrictions target wrong people

THE saga involving Wilks Park and free camping has been dragging on for what seems an eternity.

Wagga City Council announced a crackdown on long-term stays at the popular park in 2012, but people have continued to flaunt the rules – risking a \$110 fine for disobeying the signs on display.

The people most annoyed at seeing the area full of campers and caravanners are the ones whose hip pockets are hurt the most – Wagga’s caravan park owners.

While some of the free loaders may be interstate grey nomads who can most likely afford to cough up at any one of our lovely caravan parks, a lot of the people looking for a temporary place to stay are those hit by hard times.

The same people who cannot afford to hand over money to these park owners – and would probably not be welcome anyway.

But, deliberately or not, these restrictions target the strugglers of our city rather than punish the travellers who are looking to save a dollar or two on their stop in the city, who might only be passing through for the night.

Homeless man Christopher Matthews said in 2012, when the restrictions were announced, that council would have to drag him away.

“This is public land, it belongs to the public,” he told the *Advertiser*.

But with council taking control of the Crown land, it has the final say on who can stay at Wilks Park and for how long.

Wagga mayor Rod Kendall said the 72-hour limit was a “compromise”, designed to support the city’s caravan parks, while

also providing a safe place to stay for those who wished to camp for free.

The regulation is in line with the NSW government’s Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places.

It’s a precarious position – the city needs to encourage the grey nomad dollar to boost the city’s economy, but no one wants to see the prime piece of land turn into a permanent tent city akin to something out of a post-apocalyptic movie.

But if visitors travelling abroad can’t afford to pay \$30 or \$40 a night to stay in a caravan park, are they really going to spend up at our local businesses?

More likely they’ll use the money saved to get them one step further in their trip across Australia in their flashy caravans or motor-homes that can resemble mini mansions.

