



# Freedom camping not for us

**Deniliquin Council has rejected a request to implement a 'freedom camping' model of accommodation within its boundaries.**

Councillors unanimously agreed the concept of providing free camping on private land was not in the interest of Deniliquin.

The Youcamp travel website said it had received a high number of enquiries from people who manage or own land across NSW, including people from Deniliquin, who wanted to attract self-contained and low key visitors.

"Freedom campers are a group that don't use caravan parks and are after a cheap camping experience known as backyard tourism," Council mana-

ger economic and business development John Harvie said.

"Deniliquin has a number of inexpensive, well maintained and accessible licensed caravan parks and camping areas.

"In addition, as an RV Friendly town, Deniliquin Council provides two camping areas for caravans and motorhomes in Davidson St and Civic Place that allows free camping for a maximum of 48 hours.

"The arrangement is manageable and is well used and not abused by travellers.

"The Youcamp model does not allow for proper management of camping areas and could lead to illegal dumping of grey and black water and general rubbish."



## Devonport to benefit from CMCA state rally

UP TO 250 motorhomes will converge on Devonport for a state rally early next year.

The Van Demons chapter of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia is hosting the annual Tasmanian rally at the Devonport Showgrounds from February 12 to 17.

Chapter president Kevin Walker said between 230 and 250 motorhomes from the seven CMCA chapters in Tasmania were expected to set up camp at the showgrounds.

“We’ve had quite a bit of interest from the mainland and while it’s a state chapter a few always come from interstate,” he said.

The Van Demons have about 200 members, mainly from the Burnie, Ulverstone and Devonport areas.

Some chapter members come from Launceston and a couple are from Hobart and the East Coast.

Mr Walker said each month the chapter meets at

a different location for a weekend, as other chapters do too.

“We always have a good time together,” he said.

Members camp and enjoy shared activities that include playing cards and disc bowls, holding movie nights, dances and dinners as well as performing skits.

Recently 46 motorhomes from the Van Demons chapter went to the craft fair at Deloraine.

Mr Walker said most of their members were retired couples with motorhomes, but there were also a few single members and members that were still working.

“Members like to go to the mainland through the winter period and some will go together or will catch up with each other at various locations.”

Mr Walker said the chapter has met with the Devonport City Council about coming to Devonport in such a big group.

“It should be a great thing

for the city and that’s what it’s all about,” he said.

Mr Walker said members will shop in the city, visit local attractions and buy meals and fuel.

“The good thing is that where the [Spirit of Tasmania] boat comes is only on the other side of Mersey River.”

Mr Walker said the chapter can only host state events at locations big enough to fit them all in.

“We’re hoping we can fit that many people into the showground and we should be able to,” he said.

Mr Walker said the motorhomes will come in all different shapes and sizes costing anything from \$20,000 up to \$250,000.



**Kevin Walker**



## Roadside stop safety a priority

NSW trucking association ATANSW and the Caravan and Camping Industry Association of NSW (CCIA NSW) have called for road users to share the space in roadside rest areas this holiday period.

The call follows a number of instances where long-staying road users have made it impossible for other motorists to stop at a rest area.

“For the safety of holiday makers, truck drivers and all other motorists on our roads, it is vitally important people use roadside rest stops for the purpose they are

intended and do not set up a camp or hinder their appropriate use in any way,” CCIA NSW President, Theo Whitmont said.

“Summer is a busy time on our roads, and there are always more people taking long trips and towing caravans, so having safe and avail-

able rest stops is an important part of holiday safety.

“We would urge all travellers to be respectful of the laws and use the roadside facilities responsibly.”

ATANSW Manager Jodie Broadbent said misuse of roadside

rest areas could cause serious fatigue issues for heavy vehicle drivers.

“By law, heavy vehicle drivers must take rest breaks at certain times,” Ms Broadbent said. But if the rest area they intended to stop at is filled with caravans and other vehicles, they can’t meet these legal obligations.

“We ask holiday motorists to only use these parking bays for a short period and avoid setting up camp with tables and chairs.”