

Dimboola RV friendly

THE Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia has declared Dimboola an RV-friendly town.

The 'RV Friendly Towns' scheme is part of the CMCA's attempts to boost small town tourism and economies.

Hindmarsh Shire chief executive Tony Doyle said the listing of Dimboola as RV friendly would make it more economically stable and livable.

Mr Doyle hopes Jeparit, Rainbow and Nhill will also become RV-friendly towns.

"We are installing RV facilities at Jeparit and Rainbow and now that Nhill has potable water we will be applying for all three towns to become accredited RV Friendly Towns in the near future," he said.

To qualify for the scheme, towns must have a visitor information centre, vehicle service centre, appropriate parking, access to medical facilities, a pharmacy, dump point and general shopping area.

'It is great to see an increasing number of towns qualifying as RV friendly'

Ken Kipping

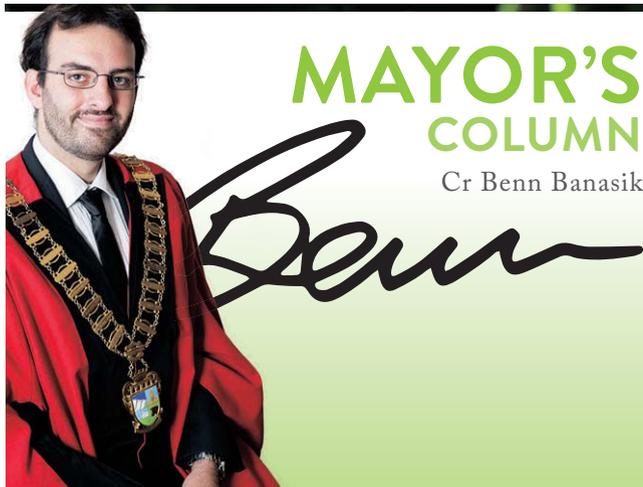
The CMCA also takes into account the general attitude of councils and communities.

According to the club, Australia's road-based tourism is worth \$7 billion a year.

CMCA director, national consumer representative and government liaison Ken Kipping said the results of the scheme were promising.

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

Victoria has 30 RV-friendly towns including Ararat, Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Hopetoun, St Arnaud, Stawell, Warracknabeal and Wedderburn.



On 12 September, The Premier the Hon. Mike Baird, Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Paul Toole, Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health, The Hon. Jai Rowell, Chris Patterson MP for Camden and Bryan Doyle MP for Campbelltown visited Cawdor to see the Cawdor Bridge. The bridge was predominantly funded through the NSW Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme loan.

On 12 September, Picton Sportsground, Stage One was officially opened for use by Mayor, Cr Benn Banasik and Hon. Jai Rowell, Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health. The Picton Sportsground project has cost approximately \$1.7 million to date, with additional funding from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnerships program of \$15,000 toward the amenities building.

Picton Sportsground is a fantastic asset to Wollondilly and will be well utilised for years into the future. Tahmoor Cricket and Southwest Oztag will begin using the facility this Summer season with Picton Rangers soccer confirmed for the Winter season. I'm sure they will enjoy playing their sport on such a wonderful sportsground in such a beautiful setting. The project consists of two full size playing fields plus a mini field section, an amenities building, cark park, irrigation and drainage and a bore for irrigation supply. The next stage will include floodlighting which has been funded by Angus Taylor, Federal Member for Hume.

On 12 September we also officially opened a recreational vehicle dump site in Warragamba. Council in conjunction with Council's Economic Development Advisory Group and Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia have now installed two recreational vehicle dump points within its boundaries to encourage caravan users to visit Wollondilly and stay a while. The Warragamba dump point is now open for use and is situated at Warragamba Picnic Area, Warradale Road, Warragamba. The first completed dump point is situated in Appin Park, Appin and has been open since April. The Picton dump point is in the planning stages and the location for this will be released once the installation is complete.

The project cost Council \$19,000.

The next Aboriginal Information Forum is on Wednesday 24 September from 10am to 12 noon in Council's Gallery. Guest Speakers include: Kerry Welsh – Aboriginal Health Promotion – South West Health; Wendy Roberts – Health Promotion – South West Health. RSVP to Debra Osgood 4677 8224 debra.osgood@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Wollondilly Shire Council in partnership with Wollondilly Rural Fire Service is holding a bush fire preparedness session for Family Day Care, Child Care Services and schools. The session will be held in the Council building on Wednesday 24 September from 7pm.

Community events coming up include:

Spring Fair Opening Day, Saturday 20 September at Waratah Highlands Village, 25 Tyler Road, Bargo and begins at 10am.

Coming up this Wednesday is our region's soccer team the Western Sydney Wanderers first leg against FC Seoul in South Korea for the AFC Champions League. This is the furthest a team from Western Sydney has come and just adds to the fairytale story of the Wanderers who are just two years old. Well done to the Wanderers thus far and I look forward to cheering on with the RBB at the home leg on October 1 at Parramatta. Come on you Wanderers!

Until next week take care and stay safe.



Council to vote on RVs

The Shire of Dundas council will tonight decide whether Norseman is to become a recreational vehicle-friendly town.

The Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia requested the council offer parking areas that met the needs of self-contained and "leave no trace" vehicles.

The council received a similar request from the Goldfields-Esperance Tourism Alliance in 2012 — but voted against providing overnight or longer-term parking areas within Norseman.

Shire chief executive Richard Brookes has recommended the council vote in favour of finding an appropriate area within the town so Norseman can meet the RV-friendly requirements.

Preparing a welcome mat for the grey nomads

LITHGOW City Council is in the final stages of seeking Recreational Vehicles (RVs) RV Friendly accreditation from the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CCMA).

Council staff have now completed the installation of the Ezy Point Dump Point at Lake Wallace in Wallerawang and at Kremer Park in Portland.

The dump points and potable water were essential components in gaining accreditation for RV friendly status and mean that people in RVs will be able to offload waste and refill their water tanks.

"I look forward to the completion of the accreditation process and the extra numbers of RVs it will attract to the area, especially to the towns of Portland and Wallerawang," mayor Maree Statham said.

Cr Statham said RVs are an important target market to attract to Lithgow.

"The travellers in RVs generally appreciate the amenities provided, are clean and tidy and inject money into the local economy in the form of food, drink, petrol, tours etc.

"With our RV friendly accreditation we will be able to market all the facilities of Lithgow to RV owners and increase the tourist dollar spend in the LGA."

Campervans are a regular sight at Wallerawang's Lake Wallace particularly in the summer months and although not officially condoned council has always turned a blind eye.

Now it can become official.

One handicap to permitting caravans and the like at Lake Wallace is that the amenities block is locked each night, leaving no toilet or shower facilities available.

Lake Lyell has for some years been equipped to accommodate such visits.

For more information on the RV friendly status and what it means for the Lithgow LGA contact Lithgow Visitor Information Centre on 1300 760 276 and talk to one of the friendly staff.



Father's Day at Lawrence for Ramblers

It was a taste of all seasons for Clarence Valley Ramblers Motorhome Club members on its Father's Day outing to the Lawrence Golf Club.

A warm welcome was extended to us by members of the Lawrence Golf Club committee which ensured that we will be returning to this wonderful first-time venue again next year. What a perfect spot it was for the 31 vehicles with plenty of room, great facilities and beautiful views.

Most of the vehicles arrived to warm and sunny conditions on Friday. After setting up camp members were soon greeting each other and during afternoon tea catching up on what they had been doing in the past month. Huge storm clouds gathered late afternoon and it looked as if we were going to be in for a downpour. Luckily, however, the storm headed north-east and all we got was a light shower. Dinner was enjoyed at the Lawrence Tavern. We needed three trips in their courtesy bus (and a couple of private cars) to transport 45 members where all enjoyed a wonderful meal and great service.

It was a fun and games on Saturday with Rambler band members getting together for a rehearsal prior to the BIG concert to be held that night, and a number of members taking part in a putting competition. Laughter echoed around the putting green at the attempts by some who had never played golf and by the putts some of the more experienced golfers played! Carol Jones was the eventual winner and was over the moon to have beaten the men.

The clouds rolled in on Sunday for Father's Day and the marquee was erected to enable us to have cover 'just in case' it rained.

Luckily the barbecue area was also covered for as the food was being prepared for lunch down came the rain! However, this didn't deter us and we all enjoyed delicious hamburgers (with the works) which the Club put on to celebrate Fathers Day.

Another wonderful weekend of fun and friendship was enjoyed by all.

As most of our members will be going on a tag-along safari on the way to the CMCA Rally at Nelson Bay or are away travelling, there will be no outing for October. However, we have over 85 vehicles from all parts of NSW booked in for our Grafton Jacaranda Rally to be held from October 27 to November 2 for the 80th anniversary.

Patricia Kan



Council green light for cheap camping stays

By **KATHY SUNDSTROM**

CHEAP camping will soon be an option on the Sunshine Coast for the growing drive tourism market.

The Sunshine Coast Council unanimously approved its "Limited Options Camping Permits" interim policy at Thursday's Ordinary Meeting.

The policy will allow self-contained campers to pull up across the Coast for a maximum of three nights at a lower price than in some commercial campgrounds.

Economic Development Councillor Jason O'Pray said the new interim policy would "set the framework to assess approvals".

It appears the sites identified suitable for the "Limited Options Camping Permits" are restricted to council-owned land across the region at Maleny, Eumundi and Nambour.

Other sites may apply but they would have to show a history of "prior use" to qual-



CHEAP CAMPING'S OKAY:
Councillor Jason O'Pray.

ify. "Overflow" camping sites may also be identified in peak seasons at "suitable locations".

Council officers have advised commercial/private owners may apply, but "in some instances, will encounter additional costs and longer timeframes".

The council has also confirmed while it did consult with caravan groups no commercial parks were involved.

"While consultation has not occurred with commercial caravan park owners in the development of this interim policy, extensive consultation will be undertaken

during the next stage of the project when a wider regional drive tourism strategy is developed. This is expected to occur during 2015," a spokeswoman said.

Cr O'Pray emphasised the policy was not "not meant to be anti-competitive".

"Private industry can also buy into this if they meet the obligations under the Planning Scheme and the Land Act," he said.

"In fact, council hopes this policy will also encourage the private sector to consider providing limited facilities camping options for tourists.

"The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia cited mobile travellers in recreational vehicles as one of the nation's fastest-growing segments of the tourism industry.

"These travellers often seek self-contained sites for short stays, which generally entail a patch of land, effluent dump facilities and access to potable water."



RV status not so friendly for some

Jasmine Bamford

The Shire of Dundas hopes a recent council decision to make Norseman recreational vehicle-friendly will boost business in the town.

But a move to gain the certification, a Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia scheme that offers free overnight parking areas for RVs, was not met with unanimous acclaim.

In a letter penned to Dundas chief executive Richard Brookes, a representative from Norseman's only caravan park suggested the initiative would devastate her business. Sally Chacko from the Gateway Caravan Park appealed to the council to disallow the scheme on the basis it would return little benefit to the Norseman community.

"The caravanners, especially those in the retiree age group, are very parsimonious and careful when it comes to purchasing their supplies and do not stop in small

towns at all unless forced to by circumstance," she said.

"The RV community rarely visit local restaurants, clubs or entertainment that has to be paid for.

"They cook up their meals on the barbecue or on a small Webber they travel with, or using an all-in-one steamer or crockpot.

"This is part of their chosen lifestyle.

"I have considerable experience with this issue since our group also owns the Prospector Holiday Park in Kalgoorlie where a free 24-hour rest area has been provided almost next to our caravan park de-

spite our protests, and the effect has been devastating on our business without bringing any benefit to the town."

Shire of Dundas president Jacqui Best said the decision was made to support tourism potential and businesses in Norseman.

"There's probably about 80,000 caravans and RV vehicles travell-

ing nationally now," she said.

"I think there is over 300,000 registered and we need to tap into that market.

"It was a little different two years ago, but we want to forge ahead, we are right here at the crossroads, people are coming through all the time. We've been nibbling away at (the idea); a lot of other councils are saying we should really look at this. Kalgoorlie have got it and a couple of other places have got it and they are working really well.

"RV people and the grey nomads they want to have some security, they can't afford \$40 or \$50 in a caravan every night and if they park on the highway they don't have that security either."