



# RV friendly Meningie

**BY CASEY GREGORY**

PEOPLE in the Meningie area are fighting for an RV friendly area to encourage travellers to stay in the town in hope to boost their economy.

Resident Sid Greig made a deputation at council and said there needs to be an RV site in town which will bring more business to the area.

"At the moment, the state of RV parking in Meningie is behind the 8-Ball," he said at the meeting.

Some are saying there needs to be a free site for self-contained travellers, many say there should be a site, just at a cost.

The argument is that if there is a free site, who will be paying for the rubbish collection, there will have to be running water and maybe toilet facilities and council dollars will pay for these services, which ultimately comes from the ratepayer.

Andrew Dawes was also at

the meeting and said towns in the Coorong District Council area are falling behind surrounding areas that are already RV friendly.

"I think businesses in the area could really benefit from the RV friendly site," he said.

"I would like to see it work in with the existing caravan park."

He said it doesn't have to be free, it just needs to be cost effective and it's managed by the caravan park, it will need to be close to them.

Lake Albert Caravan Park Assistant Manager Troy Fynnart and Owner Jacqui Grant both agree that an RV friendly area is a must for the town, but it shouldn't be free.

"We want to be supportive of it," Ms Grant said.

"It would be great for the town, we want to help other businesses in the area, we have even offered to help run it in the past and tried to get one going behind the cara-

van park."

"It should be at a low cost though, maybe \$10-\$15 per night but not free."

Ms Grant also said it would be tough for their business to compete if there was a free site on the lakefront, as that is one of their selling points.

Mr Fynnart said in the end, if there was a free site to compete with, some of their seven part-time employees would lose their jobs.

"We are still willing to talk with the council and community about looking after an area, as long as it's not free."



**READY TO MOVE FORWARD:** Lake Albert Caravan Park Owner Jaqui Grant with Andrew Dawes and caravan park assistant manager Troy Fynnaart.



## **IN BRIEF**

### **Penola motorhome site earmarked**

AN AREA of the McCorquindale Park sporting complex at Penola has been earmarked as a place where motorhomes and recreational vehicles might be parked.

Council has resolved to undertake further discussions, business modelling and planning with the committee of the McCorquindale Park Management Committee and the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia.

Both organisations are supportive of the idea.



# Clifton named RV Friendly Town

After many years of hard work by various local groups, residents will be pleased to know that the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) has officially declared Clifton a RV Friendly Town.

By creating a partnership between recreational vehicle (RV) tourists and the towns they visit, CMCA aims to maximise the value of self-contained RV tourists to both metropolitan and regional Australia.

In order to qualify for the program, towns must successfully meet the needs of self-contained RV travellers and satisfy key criteria including access to a general shopping area, provision of appropriate low cost overnight parking for self-contained vehicles, access to potable water and a free dump point.

With these amenities in place, RV tourists can access any RV Friendly Town in the knowledge that they will be welcomed and well looked after.

The Clifton Recreation Reserve on Davenport and Morton Streets offers RV parking for \$10 per van per night.

There is a generous two week time limit and showers, toilets, power, bins and covered seating are available.

Visitors also have access to the free dump point and potable water at this site.

In return, CMCA supports all towns with RV Friendly status through promotion to CMCA members and the broader self-contained RV community.

According to CMCA Chairman Garry Lee, the CMCA RV Friendly Town network makes a significant contribution to the RV Tourism market in Australia

"As the value of RV tourism becomes widely

accepted, CMCA has more than 270 towns across Australia with RV Friendly status" Mr Lee said.

He said the CMCA RV Friendly Town network is one of a number of CMCA initiatives providing accommodation options for self-contained RV travellers, the fastest growing segment of the RV tourism market.

For Clifton joining the RV Friendly Town network will deliver direct benefits to the local business community.

Clifton will be promoted to RV travellers across Australia through the CMCA club magazine 'The Wanderer,' and through the CMCA website and social media.

On the CMCA website, Clifton is described as building a successful economy around cereal crops, vegetables, cattle and

horses and town's country charm is evident through the warm, friendly welcome from the locals.

The site mentions services in Clifton convenient to RV travellers including a newsagent, bank, coffee shop, service station, chemist and post office to name a few.

The site also discusses town's historic buildings, including the more than 100-years-old Tivoli Theatre and mentions the use of the town's streetscape as a backdrop in Australian movies, such as 'The Thorn Birds'.

With the self-contained RV tourism market estimated to be worth more than \$2.5 billion annually,

Clifton is now well-positioned to access this lucrative market.

The number of registered RVs in Australia is expected

to grow to more than 700,000 vehicles by 2020.

As more baby boomers enter the market, regional Australia in particular, will benefit from this extraordinary growth.

They are some of the most environmentally friendly drive tourists in Australia.

Being an RV Friendly Town, Clifton has the opportunity to promote the region's attractions and capture a part of this massive growth market.

Through a combination of social media and word of mouth RV tourists will quickly let their fellow travellers know what a great place Clifton is to visit and experience what it is that makes this town unique.

Find out more about the CMCA RV Friendly Town network by visiting the CMCA's official website <http://www.cmca.net.au>



**The Clifton Recreation Reserve is set to see more grey nomads after the naming of Clifton as a RV Friendly Town.**