



Happy campers at Franklin River Reserve

RECREATIONAL vehicle (RV) owners are leaving no doubt as to where they stand in the debate over 'free camping' versus caravan parks.

A spot check of Franklin River Reserve, just outside Toora, one day last week found half a dozen campers of various types, mostly from interstate, enjoying an overnight break at the picturesque reserve.

They commented that they enjoyed the fact that the camping was free and relished the freedom they felt in staying in such a place. They complimented the shire on ample rubbish bins, doggy-bag facilities and clean toilets, the BBQ area and access around the site. They said that it was easily the best camping site they had found on their travels.

In a plus for the local economy, most had made use of – or planned to shop at - the local supermarket. A quick call into Toora found that the supermarket there had had three RVs call in to do shopping already by 10.30am that day.



• *Happy campers at Franklin River Reserve.*



REBA MEETING

The Robinvale Euston Business Association Meeting was held on Monday, 3rd March. Vice President, Kelly Millard, chaired the evening's meeting. The Economic Development Officer, Amanda Young, from Swan Hill Rural Council elaborated on some council issues related to Robinvale including the street flags and the CMCA rally. Regarding the CMCA Rally, council will be initiating a 'shop local' campaign.

They have created flyers listing discounts and vouchers from participating local businesses. The flyers will be included in a welcome pack that each rally attendee receives. After shopping, the rally attendees are encouraged to save their receipts and enter them into a barrel. A winner will be drawn each evening, receiving a prize donated by local traders. The raffle will be drawn at 'happy hour' held at the Robinvale Football Club in the Kevin Curran Social Rooms.

Council will be organising bus tours to local attractions including the Pioneer Settlement, Andrew Peace Wines, Lake Boga, Lamattina's Carrot Farm, and Robinvale Organic Wines, to name a few. Council is looking for volunteers from the local area to narrate the tours for the attendees. Anyone interested can contact Kelly Millard at the Riverside Caravan Park.

In readying for the arrival of the CMCA rally participants, the Swan Hill Council has issued one hundred and sixty letters to locals reminding them to tidy their yards for the big event. Council itself plans to do some extra mowing and clean up to ensure the town is looking its best.

The SHRCC will be on site for the duration of the CMCA Rally. The Council will have a stand on the grounds and be available to give out information on the area.

Cigarette butt bins have arrived and will be located in various locations on the main street.

The street flags promised for Perrin Street are still a work in progress. Council is still committed to the project. At this point, council is in the process of hiring an engineer to complete the project.

REBA members were given feedback on the Friends of Bromley Road meeting. With eighty one people in attendance, the ideas were well represented to council. The Friends of Bromley Road are in favour of beautification of the area but, not necessarily, a massive overhaul of the road. Firstly, they want the water turned on to promote growth on the median. Another item they are suggesting is to have the speed limit slowed from 60km/h to 50km/h.

REBA would like to work with the schools by creating posters as a 'welcome' to the CMCA Rally attendees. The posters would serve the purpose of the covering the windows of the empty shops. The focus of the posters for the students would be to create posters explaining what they like about Robinvale.



SHOP LOCAL CAMPAIGN 31 MARCH – 6 APRIL

From 31 March until 6 April 2014, Robinvale will host the 28th Anniversary Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) Rally. At least 1500 campervans and about 3000 people will descend upon the region for the event.

To encourage CMCA members to support local business, REBA and Swan Hill Rural City Council will organise a

shop local program. It is free for any business in the Robinvale-Euston region that wishes to participate. Businesses can offer a dis-

count, reward or special offer for CMCA members to further encourage them to visit the shopping centre.

Businesses and their

offer will be listed on an A4-sized sheet that will be placed in each member's showbag upon entry to the rally. Businesses will sign off or stamp the offer on that sheet once a customer takes the offer up, then return the sheet to the customer so they can continue

using it throughout the shopping centre. Each participating business will be given an A4 poster to place in their shop window to promote the shop local campaign. Shoppers will also be asked to keep receipts from participating stores to go into a draw for

a nightly or weekly prize.

The promotion will be valid for the week of the rally only. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form by clicking this link and return it to Amanda Young at Swan Hill Rural City Council

Email: ayoung@swan-hill.vic.gov.au Swan Hill Region Information Centre, corner McCrae and Curlewis Streets, Swan Hill 3585 Fax – (03) 5032 3032. If you have any queries, please contact Amanda on (03) 5036 2455 or ayoung@swan-hill.vic.gov.au.



| **THE OTHER SIDE** | Self-contained RV owners are not the bad guys

VANPACKERS damage the reputation of well-behaved campers, say travellers Marlene and Michael Porter.

The Gold Coast couple were stopping over in Byron Bay this week as they made their way down the East Coast in their Winnebago fully self-contained camper.

“The vanpackers give us ‘leave no trace’ campers a bad name,” Mrs Porter said.

Because the Porters’

\$100,000 van had cooking facilities, shower, toilet, water tank and grey water systems the couple needed little in the way of local facilities, Mrs Porter said.

“When we spent 10 months travelling Australia we probably stayed in three caravan parks in total. Most are too expensive for us – some charge up to \$60 a night – and we are fully self-contained.

“There is an anti-camping

mentality in many places – Byron Bay and Noosa are the worst for free campers.”

Mr Porter, 57, said councils had to acknowledge the fact that self-contained RV (recreational vehicle) campers didn’t want to pay park fees when they could just as easily stop by the side of the road and cause no problems with waste or litter.

“We don’t want to stay in a caravan park packed in like sardines listening to the

bloke next door snoring,” he said.

“We like to pull off the side of the road by ourselves for peace and quiet.

“In many areas the council have provided minimum facilities – cold showers and access to water and toilets – for about \$5 a night,” he said.

“RV campers actually bring money to the town by buying petrol, food and paying for activities like surf lessons,” he said.



Major revamp for Calypso Holiday Park

YAMBA'S Calypso Holiday Park is in line for a major \$7 million redevelopment.

Clarence Valley councillors, sitting as members of the Clarence Coast Reserve Trust, voted to put the redevelopment plan for the park on public exhibition.

The plan involves the demolition of the existing office and the relocation of the main entrance and office to the Ford Park end of the site.

Pedestrian access from Yamba St to the waterfront would be extended to create two precincts, thus providing an open space that would become a focal point for the town.

Council officers said the plan would improve traffic flow for Yamba's CBD and reduce the need for large caravans and other recreational vehicles to use the

main streets.

The existing two-storey accommodation block would be replaced with additional cabins, including two-storey cabins along the southern boundary.

The main amenities block would be demolished to make way for the construction of cabins on the waterfront.

New amenities blocks and camp kitchens would be installed at both sections of the park.

There would be some encroachment of car parking and access towards Ford Park.

Council officers said the redevelopment was overdue and necessary and would help maintain and improve the infrastructure to meet the needs of holidaymakers.

Mayor Richie Williamson said the Calypso Holiday

Park was one of Yamba's premier tourist destinations.

"These planned changes will make it an even more attractive destination for tourists," he said.

Cr Williamson encouraged anyone with an interest in the park to inspect the plans at the council offices in Maclean or Grafton and to make a formal submission.