



Freedom camp site discussions

WITH the closure of the Latrobe Mersey River Caravan Park to tourists – the operator instead opting to continue to solely service the accommodation needs of seasonal workers with hostel accommodation – the Latrobe Council is continuing to work with a couple of organisations in relation to the ongoing issue of permits for the freedom camping site. This site is located off Cotton Street, Latrobe, at the rear of the Station Square car park. This site is controlled by a council by-law that requires campers to meet specific criteria – must be self-sufficient, according to the definition – and only stay for 48 hours in any 14-day period. The sites have no amenities, power or water provided. Tents and insufficiently self-contained caravans are not permitted to utilise this area.



Collinsville declared an RV friendly town

WHITSUNDAY Regional Council has formalised its agreement with the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia to have Collinsville declared an RV friendly town.

Mayor Jenny Whitney said RV friendly status would enable Collinsville to be better promoted to RV travellers and drive tourists as an ideal destination to stop, shop and explore.

"In order to earn RV friendly status, Collinsville



Council strongly believes that each of our towns has their own unique tourist appeal

– Whitsunday Mayor Jenny Whitney

has had to satisfy stringent criteria and ensure that RV travellers can enjoy ease of access to shopping areas, low cost overnight parking and potable water," Cr Whitney said.

"Council strongly believes that each of our towns has their own unique tourist appeal, and we have worked very closely with the CMCA with other community stakeholders to position

Collinsville as an RV friendly town.

"Collinsville celebrates its rich mining heritage through local landmarks such as the Coalface Experience museum and the bronze Pit Pony statue, and hopefully the town will continue to grow its reputation as a friendly, welcoming community with a lot to offer its visitors."

To find out more visit the CMCA's website at www.cmca.net.au.



Don't overlook potential

Aspire CQ

with
**Warren
Acutt**



TOURISM has hardly been the strongest pillar of the Rockhampton region's economy.

The net ban in the Fitzroy River is supposed to encourage a tourist boom with recreational fishers flocking to Rockhampton, one of the few places in Australia one can fish for barramundi during the day plus dine in a choice of restaurants that night.

But there does not appear to be a committed push from the private sector or government to develop the opportunity.

There is also a lack of enthusiasm to attract the RV nomads, with no alternative free parking space in the city provided since closing the access into Kershaw Gardens last year.

Could the townships of Bajool and Marmor strengthen the tourism pillar to better underpin the region's growth?

Hardly recognised tourist attractions, Bajool and Marmor do have things going for them.

They are on the national highway (and if the bypass is built around Rockhampton, they will still be on the Bruce) and are close to the mighty Fitzroy River with its crabs, crocodiles and barramundi.

Fishing is a major activity of RV travellers.

There would be plenty of Bajool and Marmor locals who know good fishing and crabbing spots close by and probably where the crocs are too.

If council, in consultation with the relevant community, developed a suitable site for RV travellers to stay a few nights

free of charge and a micro-fishing tourism enterprise at either Bajool or Marmor and promoted it with the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, it arguably wouldn't take long to see the RV travellers stopping and spending money in Bajool or Marmor.

It's money I'm sure the locals would notice and appreciate.

Take it a step further and encourage the RV travellers to

know and explore the town's history. Nearby Bouldercombe Falls and legendary Mount Morgan Mine (with gold detector opportunities) including the town's beautiful dam and you're arguably packaging a three to five night destination for those who enjoy fishing with a dash of adventure.

A recognised niche tourist market.

It also provides the opportunity to promote Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast tourist attractions.

Imagine Bajool and/or Marmor being the stopover that could benefit Rockhampton's tourism trade.

What's stopping it from happening?



Warren Acutt says the towns of Bajool and Marmor could boost tourism in the region. Pictured is Shaun Elliott at the Bajool Hotel.



Tavern named RV-friendly

ALTHOUGH it's not official yet, word-of-mouth advertising suggests that the Lawrence Tavern has become RV (recreational vehicle)-friendly.

The Caravan Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) confirmed last week the tavern would soon receive its certificate, making it officially RV-friendly.

It will be the third site in the Clarence to get RV-friendly recognition from the peak body.

Maclean and Grafton have been designated RV-friendly towns because they have required facilities, including dump sites for sewerage and grey water.

A CMCA spokeswoman said it was only the tavern and not the Lawrence village that had received the RV-friendly tag.

She said the hotel had a well-grassed flat area for camping and had installed showers and toilets for people to use.

It was unlikely CMCA would provide dump-site equipment to the tavern, although the business could buy the equipment itself.

Tavern staff said the CMCA inspection of the facilities was remarkably informal.

"They sent a man out to check us out," employee Michelle Giffin said.

"He came, checked out the area out the back, the showers and toilets and how close we were to the river and said we would have no problems.

"He was sitting up at the bar with his laptop and said, 'I'll fill it all out for you now'."

Ms Giffin said the tavern was motivated to provide the services when Clarence Valley Council erected No Camping signs after it received complaints about people staying overnight in the park.

"I think it was only one person," she said.

"A lot of other people wanted the people to come here.

"They spent money at the pub and at the shop."

Ms Giffin said the tavern had a capacity for 10 RVs or a few more, depending on their size.

"At the moment we get a few a week," she said.

"I doubt we use half our capacity."



Doing our bit for happy campers

Nadine O'Neill

COLLINSVILLE is now officially an RV Friendly Town.

Whitsunday Regional Council has formalised its agreement with the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) to have

Collinsville declared RV friendly, allowing the town to be better promoted to RV travellers and tourists as an ideal destination to stop, shop and explore.

"In order to earn RV Friendly status, Collinsville has had to satisfy stringent criteria

and ensure that RV travellers can enjoy ease of access to shopping areas, low cost overnight parking and potable water," Mayor Whitney said.

"Council strongly believes that each of our towns has their own unique tourist appeal, and we have worked very

closely with the CMCA with other community stakeholders to position Collinsville as an RV Friendly Town.

"Collinsville celebrates its rich mining heritage through local landmarks such as the Coalface Experience museum and the bronze Pit Pony statue,

and hopefully the town will continue to grow its reputation as a friendly, welcoming community with a lot to offer its visitors," she said.

For further information on the RV Friendly Town program, visit the CMCA's website at www.cmca.net.au