



Destination NSW launches School Holiday Short Breaks campaign

The school holiday short breaks campaign launched recently by Destination NSW recognises the unique and enticing holiday options offered by caravan and camping getaways with a strong focus on family fun, Caravan & Camping Industry Association NSW CEO, Lyndel Gray said .

The regionally focused campaign, launched by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Andrew Stoner, not only showcases the fantastic holiday offerings of NSW, but also provides a one-stop-shop at visitnsw.com.au where you can search and plan your next caravan and camping getaway.

"With the Spring school holidays looming, this is a perfect time to think about a break at some of the amazing holiday parks across NSW that offer a real treat for families," Ms Gray said.

"Many parks offer family-friendly features like pools, water-play areas and playgrounds, cafes and other resort style facilities and activities."

Ms Gray said NSW families are already highly engaged with the great outdoors and make up the largest group of caravan and camping visitors in the State. Almost 35% of domestic caravan and camping visitors to NSW are also part of a family group.

"These holidays provide the perfect opportunity to hitch your caravan or camper trailer, load up the motorhome or campervan, or pack up the tent and head out for a fantastic family holiday experience."

For more information on planning caravan and camping holidays in NSW visit www.visitnsw.com/schoolholidays or www.caravan-camping.com.au/ExperienceCaravanCamping.

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 — 11



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

No time wasted on attracting visitors

➔ DUMP points for recreational vehicles have been installed at Appin and Warragamba.

The joint project was carried out by Wollondilly Council's economic development advisory group as well as the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia.

The dump points have been installed to encourage caravan users to visit the shire and "stay a while".

The disposal of black and grey water and hard waste (rubbish) in a responsible manner is also encouraged through dump points.

Councillor Benn Banasik said the move helped to at-

tract tourism, giving self-contained travellers the opportunity to stay in Wollondilly shire and "see our beautiful scenery and experience our country hospitality".

A dump point at Picton will open in the future.



Wollondilly Liberal MP Jai Rowell and Benn Banasik at the Warragamba dump point.



TEA TREE GULLY

Happy campers vision

SEWAGE DUMP POINT SEEN AS TOURISM KEY

Erin Jones

PLANS are afoot to turn the northeast into a tourist haven for motorhomes and campervans.

Tea Tree Gully Council is investigating the feasibility of a sewage dump point and overnight stay area for the recreational vehicles.

The council this month voted to investigate the idea as a way to increase tourist numbers to the district.

It consulted tourism and hospitality businesses in July, which supported the establishment of a sewage dump point.

Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia national member services co-ordinator Raymond Cowley welcomed the council's investigation. The Dernancourt resident said more metropolitan councils should establish dump points and attract tourists.

"Tea Tree Gully has listened and we're very hopeful," Mr Cowley said.

"There is only one other dump point in metropolitan Adelaide, being in St Kilda.

"They are a magnet for tourists. Our website gives all our dump points and everyone in our club looks at it and says 'this is where we're heading'."

A similar proposal was endorsed by Campbelltown Council last year but was

overturned following outcry by residents who did not want increased traffic or for the area to be known as a place to discharge waste.

However, CMCA research showed recreational vehicle drivers spent an average \$572 per week when on the road, boosting the local economy.

Murray Bridge will hold one of two CMCA rallies next year, which CMCA estimated would inject up to \$2.5 million to the area.

Mr Cowley said if the council's investigation was successful there would be no reason why it could not hold a rally in the future.

"Up to 1000 motorhomes are at each rally and these people are very loyal and spend locally," he said.

"That's one thing we drum in to our members to do - spend locally."

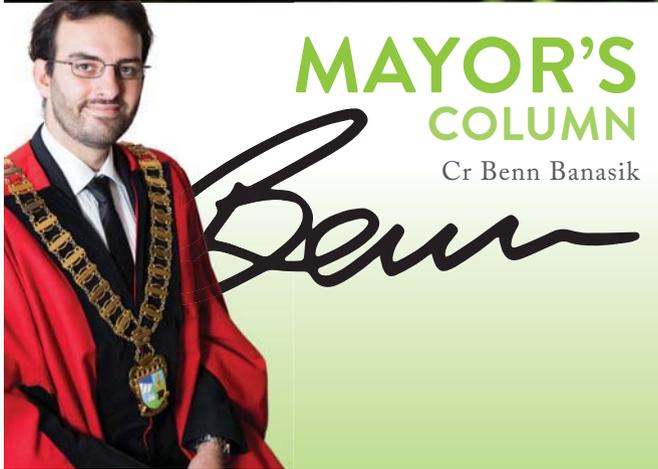
The council's strategic planning manager, Ingrid Wilkshire, said the campervan investigation outcome would be presented to elected members mid-2015. The council began work in 2011 on identifying ways to promote tourism in the district.

Other ideas to be explored included lobbying government departments to promote Anstey Hill Recreation Park and the Torrens Valley Scenic Route, and pursuing more major events for the council's event calendar.



Raymond Cowley enjoying a break next to his motorhome.

Picture: ROGER WYMAN



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 Otag 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, car 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.

Maclean goes RV Friendly for grey nomads

MACLEAN is now fully licensed to cash in on the lucrative business recreational vehicle owners offer to regional centres around Australia.

The town has joined Grafton and 214 other Australian towns as a designated RV Friendly Town with the installation of a dump point at the Maclean Showground to allow motor home and caravan users to dispose of their liquid waste.

Clarence Valley Mayor, Richie Williamson, said attracting tourists to a town was not just about accommodation.

"It is about the whole of the economy and benefiting the broader business community," he said.

"While staying in an area,

an RV (recreational vehicle) tourist will spend money on entertainment, visiting local attractions, enjoying a restaurant meal, souvenirs, clothing, haircuts, RV repairs, laundry service, fuel, and groceries.

"These are the sorts of things we can achieve now tourism promotion is part of the council's activities. It means we can have a whole-of-council approach to providing and promoting tourism activities.

"We want this to be an RV Friendly area, so if there are other towns or villages

that would like to be RV Friendly, we will do whatever we can to assist."

Maclean Chamber of Commerce president, John Riggall, said the chamber's

research showed more than 350 RV and caravans passed Ferry Park each day in the off season.

"It is estimated that every camper spends \$70 a day. Multiply this by 10 per night and it equates to more than \$5000 a week spent in Maclean," he said. "Thanks to Rex Watkins, Northern Regions co-ordinator, Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia, who supplied the dump point and \$3000 to assist in the installation."



Grey nomads will boost the Maclean economy.



No camping, fires at beach

ALEX ARNOLD

CAMPING and lighting fires at the northern end of Bombo Beach have been prohibited by Kiama Municipal Council.

In May, a call for a sewage dump point at the northern end of Bombo Beach was rejected by councillors amid fears it would exacerbate unauthorised camping in the area.

Kiama council staff said camping in the area had increased dramatically in recent times, with the council receiving numerous complaints from residents regarding noise, fires, rubbish and loss of parking spaces caused by the influx of campervans, particularly over the 2013 Christmas season.

Rather than enforcing fines, the council proposes to develop a "communication plan" outlining its position and providing information for campers regarding alternative locations to camp.



Council unanimous in backing centre's move

Tourism at Town Hall

MELISSA CUNNINGHAM

BALLARAT'S Visitor Information Centre will soon be situated in the heart of the city, after councillors approved plans to move it into the Town Hall.

Councillors unanimously voted on Wednesday to move the centre from 43 Lydiard Street North to the Town Hall, after several years of debate on the issue and three feasibility studies dating back to 2006. The centre's current lease expires in June.

Rapidly declining use and a series of unsuitable potential sites have plagued the centre for several years.

But the council report outlined that a move to the Town Hall could secure its future for up to 20 years.

Another potential site in the report was the former State Bank. St Andrews Church on Sturt Street was also put forward as long-term

option for the centre.

The council's decision was disputed by Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's Grant Tillett who raised serious concerns about the ability for large cars and trailers and recreational vehicles to safely manoeuvre and park near the Town Hall.

Mr Tillett called for a "satellite tourism centre" alongside the proposal that could cater for tourists in larger vehicles and the trend

of "emerging fifth wheel" vehicles. "To encourage large mobile equipment into heart of the city is really just short-sighted and impractical," Mr Tillett said.

However, BRT chairman Grant Wiltshire vehemently welcomed the shift to the Town Hall as BRT's preferred location.

He said BRT would continue with "pop up" tourism centres at railway stations, Sovereign Hill and throughout the CBD

during major events in the city.

Councillor Amy Johnson said the Town Hall had remained a popular option throughout the extensive consultations conducted on the matter.

She added that there was adequate parking surrounding the Town Hall to cater to all types of vehicles, including parking at the Civic Hall.

melissa.cunningham@fairfaxmedia.com.au

AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S BALLARAT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PRESENT: Councillors Belinda Coates, Vicki Coltman, Des Hudson, Peter Innes, Amy Johnson, Samantha McIntosh, John Philips, Glen Crompton and Josh Morris.

PRESENT IN GALLERY: 22 DECISIONS

1: The City of Ballarat voted to approve the funding allocations of the community impact special committee report to council, which included funding for the McCallum Disability Services, Ballarat Society of Artists, Ballarat District Bowls Division and Salvation Army Property Trust.

2: Ballarat Councillors voted to approve the Youth Council 2014 Progress Report, which acknowledged the work and commitment demonstrated by the City of Ballarat youth councillors.

3: Ballarat Councillors voted to carry over council expenditure to

the 2014-15 financial year and approved the addition of \$31.909 million to the 2014-15 budget to fund the list of requested carryovers.

4: Ballarat councillors voted to adopt the council's annual accounts for 2013-14 and approve the 2013-14 annual Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Standard Accounts.

5: The Ballarat Council voted to endorse the outstanding question time items report for the period up to September 10. The report provides the council with an update of responses to questions taken on notice and outstanding unanswered questions from councils.

6: Ballarat Councillors voted to approve and endorse the council's chief executive officer's report for July and August.



Top way to see country

ABOUT 1000 recreational vehicles (RVs) will gather in Nelson Bay for the week-long Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) 29th National Rally.

Held at Tomaree Sports Complex, the event kicks off from October 6 with people travelling from all over Australia to attend.

"CMCA Australia has taken great pride in selecting Port Stephens as the venue for our national rally," CMCA chief executive Richard Barwick said.

"It is a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful club and its benefits to Port Stephens and the Hunter."

The rally is set to inject more than \$2.5 million into the local economy and residents are invited to come along when the doors open to the public.

The RV expo site is open to the public from noon until 4pm on Tuesday, October 7.

It then opens every day from 9am until 4pm from Wednesday, October 8, to Saturday, October 11.

Some of the biggest names in RVs will be showcasing their vehicles at the expo and representatives from Australian

Motor Homes, Swagman, Jayco, KEA Campers, Sydney RV Group, Trakka, Wirraway and Tiffin will also be there.

The October 11 open day will give members of the public a personalised view of the RV lifestyle.

They can get an up-close look at RVs, talk to CMCA members, ask questions about life on the road, and find out more about the club.

Rally manager Neville Deuis will be one of many people at the event happy to have a chat.

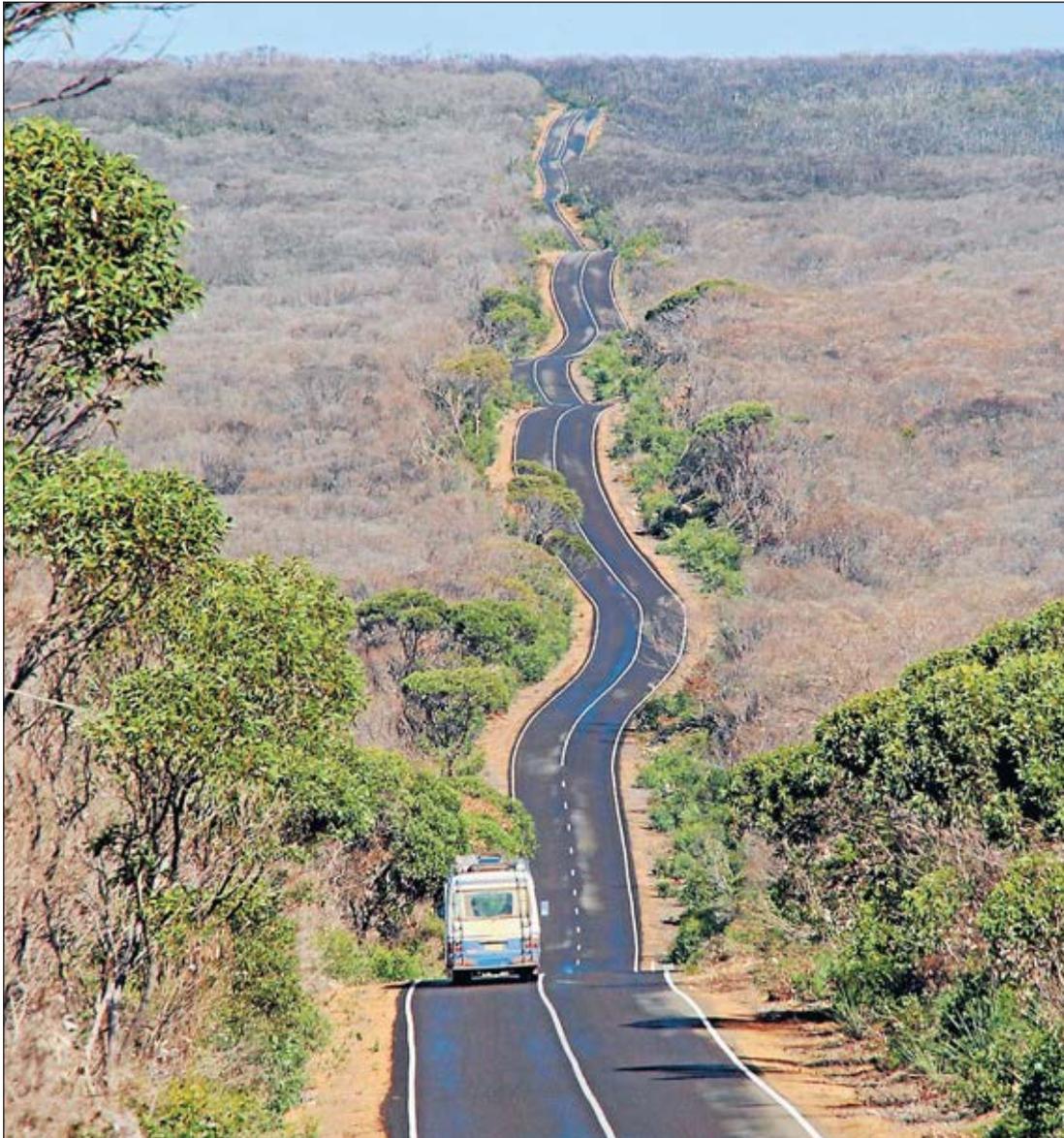
"In the first four months of our retirement we always found an excuse not to go out in the motor home," Mr Deuis said.

"When we joined CMCA we started to go off every month and we have now met people from all over Australia."

The rally itself runs from October 6 to 12 and will include people from about 100 different chapters of the CMCA.

For more information visit cmca.net.au.

"We run an integrated village for a week and our impacts on the community come only in the form of leaving our money behind," he said.



LIFE ON THE ROAD: Some of the biggest names in RVs will be showcasing their vehicles at the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia expo next month.



Kyneton recognised as 200th RV Friendly Town

KYNETON has been named Australia's 200th RV Friendly Town (RVFT) by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA).

Macedon Ranges Shire Council completed works in early 2014 to designate the Kyneton Mineral Springs Reserve as a 48-hour Recreational Vehicle (RV) stopping area, including installation of signage and amenities, such as a waste dump point.

An RV Friendly Town provides minimum accommodation needs of RV travellers, including campervans, motorhomes and caravans, including a dump point for black and grey water

effluent, access to potable water and 48-hour parking at a location within reasonable proximity to retail centres and other facilities.

CMCA chairman Vincent Moran said he is delighted that a beautiful town like Kyneton, set in one of the most picturesque parts of Australia, has become Australia's 200th RV Friendly Town.

"I want to thank Macedon Ranges Shire Council for their hard work and support in developing the amenities needed for Kyneton to achieve RV Friendly status," he said.

"The CMCA is proud of the RV Friendly Town

network and the contribution it makes to the development of RV tourism across Australia."

A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the Kyneton Visitor Information Centre recently, marking the town's listing.

Member for Northern Victoria Amanda Millar, representing Minister for Tourism Louise Asher, and Liberal candidate for Macedon Donna Petrovich congratulated everyone involved in earning Kyneton the accolade.

"This is fantastic news for Kyneton and for the greater Macedon Ranges district, attracting tourists from all over Australia to our won-

derful part of Victoria," Mrs Millar said, unveiling the plaque.

Kyneton's position as a RV Friendly Town will ensure the region is well-placed to share in economic benefits generated by RV tourism.

Kyneton will be promoted nationally as a town that happily provides amenities and services for the mobile traveller.

"The Victorian Coalition Government recognises that Recreational Vehicle (RV) tourism continues to be an important product offering to people travelling in Victoria," Mrs Millar said.



Pets can enjoy a trip too

ABOUT 30 per cent of people exploring Australia in a caravan or motorhome do so with a dog, cat or other more exotic pets.

Even though it's so common, a little bit of preparation can go a long way when it comes to planning your extended holiday or full-time travels with your furry best friend.

Before you even set off, you should spend some time getting your pet familiar with their new home away from home.

Their usual bedding and some favourite toys will be a great help in helping them settle into their new surroundings.

And the same goes for arriving at a destination – if you spend some time with your pet helping them to sniff out the destination, they're

much more likely to quickly adopt the territory as their own.

But a warning or two before you hit the road.

Pets are like children, and need supervision and entertainment.

Never leave them alone inside an RV or your tow vehicle, and if they have to be

left alone briefly, ensure they are tethered with plenty of room to move, and can reach shelter, food and freshwater.

When you're on the road, there aren't too many excuses for not enjoying the great outdoors, and remember to include your pet in all your activities.

They'll love the exercise, the new sights and sounds, and the freedom – just like you.

If you are planning to stay at caravan parks along the way, whether that's most of

the time or combined with free camping, it's always a good idea to call ahead and see what pet-friendly options are available at your destination.

Many caravan parks are fully pet-friendly, others may accept only small or very well-behaved dogs, and yet others will not allow them at all, and this could save you a lot of

time before you roll into town.

Similarly, if you plan to mostly set up at freedom camping locations, whether free or low-cost, you should check with the local council if there are any regulations that will apply to your pet in those places.

Most national parks camps will not allow pets, in order to

both protect your pet from baits or wild animals, and the native wildlife and plant life from the scents, traces and damage your pet could leave behind.

Taking our pets on the road with us is a brilliant excuse to share our lifestyle with our special furry friends, and it's a much healthier and happier

alternative than leaving them at home. With a little bit of forward thinking, you'll see how easy it is and how much richer your adventures will be.

So happy motorhoming to you all, including Fido and Fifi and all those others out there – rabbits, snakes, ferrets and parrots?

avidarv.com.au



Outdoor fun: Your pets can reap the same benefits from exploring Australia as you do.