



# Brotherhood of travellers

## Motorhome rally brings thousands to Bathurst

By LOUISE EDDY

CAMPERVANS and motorhomes were still pouring into Bathurst yesterday as close to a thousand vehicles of all shapes and sizes descended on the city for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) 30th anniversary rally at Mount Panorama.

The club holds two rallies in Australia each year, selecting a different host city each time.

A spirit of camaraderie filled the air as old friends met up and new friends were welcomed.

A series of day tours have been organised, with staff from the Bathurst Visitor Information on site to answer questions.

Participants will be able to visit Sofala, the Chifley Home, the National Motor Racing Museum, Abercrombie House and the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum, and take part in a food and wine safari.

Two of those who made a long journey to Bathurst for the event were Ray Wright of Toowoomba and David Dean, who is visiting from the United Kingdom. Both were travelling solo and had met up at an earlier event.

It was Mr Wright's first national rally and Mr Dean's sixth.

Mr Wright said he had been in Forbes for a solo rally and stayed around the area for the past month so he could take part in this week's major event.

He drove through Bathurst 30 years ago, but this was his first extended stay in the region. He has walked the iconic circuit and driven around it in his motor home.

Mr Wright has been living in his motor home since May last year and is enjoying life on the road.

So far he has driven around Tasmania and been to Bundaberg and Melbourne.

"I am enjoying it a lot," he said.

"The chapter meetings give you something to look forward to. They are a great way of meeting people if you are travelling solo.

"It's like a brotherhood and sisterhood of people travelling on their own."

Mr Dean said Australia is a magnificent country. It is his 20th visit.

"I come over every six months," he said.

So far this time he has been to Western Australia, Cape Tribulation and the Great Barrier Reef.

He really loves the lifestyle.

"I enjoy the freedom, meeting different people, seeing all the motorhomes," he said. "Sometimes you don't see people for years and then you bump into them.

"I've met some really nice people in the chapter."

Mr Dean will be leaving Australia in May to head back to England, but will be back again for the Australian summer.

Rally manager Colleen Walker said the rally participants come from all over Australia and are mostly retirees.

"They find motor homing a wonderful way of life," she said.

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) has 66,000 members.

Ms Walker said one of the highlights of the week will be the Black and White Chequered Ball in the big marquee on Friday night. There will also be an open day for the public on Saturday, April 30.



**AT HOME ON THE MOUNT:** David Dean from the United Kingdom and Ray Wright from Toowoomba are thoroughly enjoying the CMCA 30th Anniversary Rally in Bathurst this week. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK



# Campers banned at park

## Council alarm over rubbish and waste

ALEX LUTTRELL

FUTURE holiday-makers will no longer be able to use New Norfolk's Tynwald Park as a camping area after a motion was unanimously carried at last week's Derwent Valley Council meeting to ban such activities on the site.

Deputy Mayor Ben Shaw said the council will erect signage signifying caravans, motorhomes and even tents are now banned at the park. A monetary penalty will be introduced sometime in the future.

The council motion stated there have been a number of issues reported to council.

These included fears of open fires, campers using toilet and basin facilities in the Tynwald Park Oval change rooms during junior football games and even urinating on the change rooms when they are closed.

Complaints have been made by walkers that campers had also been leaving excrement along the walking track between Tynwald Park and Millbrook Rise.

Council staff have also been forced to clean larger amounts of rubbish in the area.

Cr Shaw said there will be no camping in any form at

Tynwald and there will be signage erected on site.

"I'm all for caravans as they benefit our economy but our caravan park [on the Esplanade] wasn't full and they were using Tynwald instead," he said.

Cr Shaw's motion said the increased number of campers was due to the closure of the Hobart Showgrounds Motorhome Park and Treasure Island Caravan Park. The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia will also be told of the change.



COMPLAINTS: Tynwald Park in New Norfolk.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DUMP POINTS

Susan Stephenson-Fane called for the provision of dump points locally. Caravans and motorhomes are almost always fitted with showers and toilets, the waste from these runs into either a grey water or black water tank which need to be emptied in an environmentally safe way.

Many tourist-savvy towns have properly constructed and signposted dump points to encourage passing tourists to stop, empty their tanks and whilst in town top up with what ever they may need.

There is no such public facility in Pambula, Pambula Beach, Merimbula or Eden. The dump point in Bega is poorly sited and signposted. The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) does, with the support of a well known motorhome manufacturer, sponsor the installation and signage of dump points. The Sapphire Coast Four Wheel Drive Club feels that the community, particularly the business

community of the above towns should get behind the provision of dump points.

An estimated \$13 million is spent on any one day in Australia by the estimated 130,000 RVs on the road but towns without a dump point miss out.

One South Pambula resident believes around 50 motorhomes and caravans pass through Pambula each day but do not stop because of the lack of suitable parking and lack of a dump point. This resident has offered to donate substantially towards the cost of a Pambula dump point because he feels it will be of great benefit to the town. Are the local Chambers of Commerce and Bega Valley Shire Council prepared to back these installations?

**Pat Barnard, Sapphire Coast Four Wheel Drive Club**



**BURNT OUT:** Fire crews were unable to save a Volkswagon Transporter that caught fire in the front garden of a property in Jinjera Parade, Pambula Beach on Saturday.



# A look behind the doors

THINKING about hitting the great open roads around Australia? Then don't miss tomorrow's Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) open day at Mount Panorama.

More than 2000 people, in 1000 motorhomes, have called the Mount home for the past week and they're ready to throw open their doors to the public.

The open day, to be held from 9am until 3pm, will be a chance to view around 1000 motorhomes as well as see a range of stalls and information stands.

Entry will be by gold coin donation, with all money raised to be donated to the NSW Rural Fire Service.

For more information about the rally, visit [www.cmca.net.au](http://www.cmca.net.au).

**Parade**





# Chance to travel and raise awareness

By **RACHEL FERRETT**

AUSTRALIA'S "Campervan Man" Tony Briant has been a star attraction at the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's (CMCA) Bathurst rally this week.

Mr Briant has been working with campervan, caravan and motorhome parts supplier Dometic, which exhibits at rallies across the country.

In addition to this, Dometic also supports the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) through its Follow the Sun program.

The program sends three winners on a three-month road trip around Australia to raise funds and awareness for the organisation.

"We look for people who have either a campervan, motorhome or caravan and they win a \$25,000 makeover for their van and get \$10,000 towards their trip," Mr Briant explained.

For the first time in Follow the Sun's history, the competition is

open to those who don't own an RV.

NBCF has provided its Pink Minnie Caravan, to be driven by one lucky winner who will assist in both raising funds and sharing information about the Foundation throughout their journey through Australian cities, towns, campgrounds and caravan parks.

While in Bathurst, Mr Briant has also been providing more than 1000 travellers at the CMCA rally with his practical travelling tips to help improve their experi-

ence.

"It's hard for them when they're on the road to have a whinge about something, but they can come here and talk to us and get advice," Mr Briant said.

Over the first three days of the rally, he was inundated with requests for advice from people

and those who wanted to take a look at the products on offer from Dometic.

As a regular at rallies, Mr Briant was confident in saying that it was one of the best that he's ever been to, complimenting the facilities in Bathurst.

"This is one of the best locations ever – no mud, no dirt," he said.

The CMCA rally will conclude for members this weekend, however, the public is invited to attend today's open day to see the commercial exhibitors and get a feel for the club.

Entry is by gold coin donation, with all funds raised going to the Bathurst Rural Fire Service.



**STAR ATTRACTION:** Tony Briant has offered plenty of advice to members at the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) rally at Mount Panorama over the past week. Photo: PHILL MURRAY

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