



RVs – love them or hate them

BY FIONA BLICK

Recreational vehicles (RV) have been a talking point around Yarrowonga in recent weeks with good and bad comments in the mix.

Moira Shire has also gotten onto the bandwagon and called on community feedback for a draft RV Strategy.

The Yarrowonga Chronicle recently received phone calls from several locals who all said they had contacted the shire about their concerns of some RV owners camping in a waterfront public park, namely Woodlands Park, where camping is prohibited.

General Manager Infrastructure Andrew Close confirmed with the Chronicle the shire's local law "doesn't allow camping at this location and our officers monitor compliance with these requirements".

"Council is currently seeking feedback on the RV Strategy and we encourage visitors and residents to have their say," Mr Close said.

"If the RV Strategy is adopted by council we will commence a 12 month trial of RV camping (self-contained) at showgrounds in major towns and in some smaller towns.

"We will also work with the relevant organisations and clubs to ensure appropriate visitor information is available, including online and onsite signage."

In November 2014 an RV Friendly Working Group was established and members appointed who then met over the past 12 months and developed the draft RV Strategy.

The draft strategy recommended council

recognise the potential to promote the shire as a friendly destination for the RV market through the provision of relevant visitor information and facilities, provision of suitable visitor packs to the RV market and commencement of broader consultation on the draft RV Strategy.

Cr Brian Keenan said tourism was a significant part of council business.

"The baby boomers have now finished their working lives and are becoming an industry in themselves," Cr Keenan said. "Moira Shire must take advantage of this.

"The number of people on the road absolutely astounds you, it is a massive industry.

"We have to be in a position to say 'come and talk to us'."

While the official submission period to comment on the draft RV Strategy has ended you can still download the draft strategy from the Moira Shire website www.moira.vic.gov.au or pick up a copy from the Yarrowonga Service Centre in Belmore Street.



Complaints have been made to Moira Shire about RV owners camping illegally in waterfront open spaces including Woodlands Park.



Mount to host huge van rally

Week-long program for national club

By **RACHEL FERRETT**

MOUNT Panorama will host the 30th Anniversary Rally open day of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) in April.

The CMCA hosts two major rallies each year, with the two in 2016 to be held in Bathurst and Canberra respectively.

Each rally is an opportunity for members of the CMCA to come together to chat, share stories and take part in a variety of activities over the course of a week from Sunday, April 24.

The program for the Bathurst rally includes an Anzac dawn service, trade exhibitors, seminars, dancing and a craft barn with sewing, painting and jewellery classes.

There will also be a Women's Shed and a Men's Shed established, featuring workshops, demonstrations and talks to suit each gender.

Bathurst rally manager Col Walker is pleased to have the opportunity to welcome his fellow CMCA members to his home town for the week.

With the event to be held at the iconic racing circuit, he believes it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all those who attend.

"Bathurst is one of the region's most beauti-

ful cities, offering a diversity of attractions, activities and facilities," Mr Walker said.

"We will be spoilt with first-class facilities, including a wonderful trade area and seminar rooms, and sitting on level, grassed areas.

"The CMCA RV Expo will also be taking place across the road at Harris Park, just off Pit Straight."

While the rally is really a celebration of the CMCA and its members' shared interests, it is also an opportunity for visitors to the city to explore the various cultural attractions that are available.

Mr Walker said people attending will be able to enjoy Bathurst's cafes, restaurants and bars, the boutique stores, shopping centres, facilities like the National Motor Racing Museum and, of course, the historic sites.

Mayor Gary Rush echoed Mr Walker's enthusiasm, saying the members of the CMCA would quickly find that there is far more to Bathurst than just motor racing.

"Bathurst is proud to be hosting the 2016 rally and we look forward to welcoming you to our city in April," he said.

■ For more details about the rally and related information, visit www.cmca.net.au.