



## Dorrigo has RV Friendly approval

DORRIGO Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Dorrigo has been approved as an RV Friendly town by the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA).

This has been a long-term project of the chamber's during which time we asked for feedback from businesses and the community in general about becoming an RV Friendly town.

We felt that it was important to have the support of the Dorrigo people first before applying for the application as it is only with the cooperation of local businesses that any lasting future benefits will be realised.

We knew that Dorrigo met the criteria for being an RV Friendly town, having facilities such as a dump point, potable water, RV parking close to CBD, low cost camping grounds, supermarket, chemist and hospital, etc. The community needs to be aware of what an RV Friendly town is and how to promote their businesses to gain the most out of this approval. The majority of this feedback was very positive and we thank all of those who responded.

The new organisation, Destination Dorrigo, applied and then council liaised with the Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce about support on the plateau for the application.

Treasurer of the chamber, Jane Reidy, also met with NPWS Manager of the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, Kathryn Wood, to discuss local tourism and the RV Friendly application.

From this meeting came a letter of support from NPWS and then Bellingen Shire Council submitted the RV Friendly application with supporting documents to the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA).

The chamber looks forward to working with NPWS and the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre in the future and thanks them for their kind support.

Councillor Desmae Harrison has also thanked the chamber for their involvement and support for Dorrigo being named an RV Friendly Town. So what is the next step for Dorrigo as an RV Friendly town?

Council will be able to place RV Friendly Town signs at the entrances to our town. RV refers to all recreational vehicles including motorhomes, caravans, campervans and camper trailers. This does not include tent camping.

In addition, the accreditation means greater publicity for Dorrigo:

-CMCA publishes a monthly magazine, The Wanderer, which is distributed to over 66,000 members.

-CMCA maintains a website on which Dorrigo will receive a free listing.

-CMCA also maintains a Facebook site which will also announce Dorrigo as a new RV Friendly Town.

The chamber is committed to providing ideas and promotions to help businesses make the most out of having an RV Friendly Town.

The first idea we will implement is to establish drop boxes at designated places so that RV travellers can drop their receipts into these.

Any receipts from money spent in our town would be deposited and the results published regularly in order to obtain concrete evidence of the benefits RV travellers bring to town.

If you have any ideas contact us at:

Chamber@dorrigo.com.

Stay tuned for more RV Friendly ideas coming your way from the chamber!

**DORRIGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**JANE REIDY**



# Have a say on motor laws

## GET SMART

■ Gwynneth Haywood

Consumer Protection is seeking feedback on various options for changes to the laws regulating the buying, selling and repair of motor vehicles in Western Australia.

These laws impact consumers who buy motor vehicles (including cars, caravans, camper vans and motor cycles) from dealers, as well as consumers who have any of these vehicles repaired.

More than 13 per cent of the written complaints Consumer Protection received in the 2014-15 financial year related to motor vehicle dealing or repairing.

A further 13,000 motor vehicle industry-related calls were received.

The State Government must balance providing appropriate protections for consumers while at the same time ensuring the motor vehicle industry remains viable.

The review provides an opportunity to look at ways of improving the legislation, removing unnecessary regulations and reducing red tape for business.

In the process, consumers should still get the highest standard of quality and service possible because purchasing and maintaining a motor vehicle accounts for a substantial portion

of the overall household budget.

Examples of key issues to be considered include:

- The licensing of motor vehicle sales staff.
- Categories of motor vehicle dealer licensing.
- Cooling-off periods for motor vehicle purchases.
- Types of repair work covered by motor vehicle repairers' legislation.

Have your say via [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/-consultations](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/-consultations).

Submissions close on December 18.

- Gwynneth Haywood is senior regional officer of Consumer Protection at the Pilbara Department of Commerce.



# Council ratifies no free camping stance

**Free overnight parking will not be an option for recreational vehicle (RV) travellers in Lakes Entrance, as confirmed by East Gippsland Shire Council last Tuesday night.**

Over recent years, the shire has worked on a series of projects to ensure East Gippsland is seen as a RV friendly municipality in order to support and capitalise on the growth in the RV market, both fully self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles.

These have included free effluent dump points at Mallacoota, Cann River, Omeo and Lakes Entrance, and free overnight parking for RVs at Genoa, Swift's Creek, Omeo and Metung.

With council's objective to increase visitation to the region and length of stays and to encourage increased spend while visitors are in East Gippsland it was suggested that it permit free RV overnight parking at Rotary Park, Jemmy's Point, Lakes Entrance, on a trial basis.

Manager economic development, Tim Ellis,

reported to council last Tuesday night that investigations found that stakeholders, including local caravan parks and other accommodation providers, did not endorse a 12-month trial of free RV overnight parking at Jemmy's Point.

Mr Ellis also said that based on research in other municipalities

there were a number of important points that councillors should take into account when considering a free RV overnight or longer-term parking trial at Jemmy's Point. These points were:

\* While there are some 38 towns in regional Victoria formally endorsed by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) as "RV Friendly Towns", almost none of these are key visitor destinations.

\* A number of councils have, or are likely to adopt, a position that free RV camping will not be provided in towns where commercial caravan parks operate.

\* There is some questioning of the economic value coming from RV market expenditure with a sense by some councils that the RV sector is relatively low yield.

\* The issue of competitive neutrality principles (CNP) is raised by a number of councils. It appears that the CNPs and their role within the National Competition Policy have not previously been considered during East Gippsland Shire Council's deliberations on the provision of RV facilities.

\* The proposed site at Rotary Park, Jemmy's Point, Lakes Entrance, has limited capacity of no more than five or six RVs at any one time. Based on the positive feedback from the RV community it is very likely that a free option

will create a reasonable amount of visitation, which Rotary Park will not be able to cope with causing longer term challenges for council, for example, increase the perception of council creating a free caravan park at a prime location, increased rubbish, waste water and traffic management.

\* Enforcement of illegal camping will remain a constant challenge for council's community laws officers as the available enforcement options are easy to avoid, for example, fines to transient travellers that remain unpaid and unrecoverable and moving on tired RV owners.

Cr Dick Ellis said the depth of the report provided to council by its officers showed the considerable thought given by Mr Ellis and his predecessor, John Munns, and supported the motion to not go ahead with free RV parking at Jemmy's Point.

He said illegal camping had been an ongoing problem for the shire.

"The issue of recreational vehicles camping and illicit camping has been a major problem in destination towns throughout East Gippsland, not only Lakes Entrance, but Mallacoota, Metung and through down the coast," Cr Ellis said.

"We want the economic benefits of this ever-growing industry, but practice has shown that we have not been able to

deal with the amount of illegal camping and the messes that often occur in Lakes Entrance. One only has to look at Marine Parade on occasion to see the consequences of uncontrolled illicit camping."

Speaking against the motion, Cr Peter Neal said he was disappointed his fellow councillors did not take into account the whole of Lakes Entrance.

"We've taken advice from a couple of caravan park proprietors, some of which don't even

have the ability to carry motorhomes in there, but I'm feeling very concerned for the retailers of Lakes Entrance when we are going to ban motorhome overnight stays in Lakes Entrance. I feel the retailers are going to suffer because of it," Cr Neal said.

"I would say in 12 months' time we will see the difference because we will have a huge outcry, I expect, from the retailers of Lakes Entrance who are going to be badly missing out because of this decision."

Cr Jane Rowe joined Cr Neal in voting against the motion.



# Dorrigo Has RV Friendly Approval

**Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Dorriggo has been approved as an RV Friendly town by the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA).**

The application was submitted by Bellingen Shire Council with supporting information supplied by the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dorriggo Chamber of Commerce and Destination Dorriggo.

As you may be aware from our Facebook page post on 7 September 2015, and our e-News on 6 October 2015, the Chamber asked for feedback from businesses and the community in general about becoming an RV Friendly Town as this has been a long term project of the Chamber's. We felt that it was important to have the support of the Dorriggo people first before applying for the application as it is only with the co-operation of local businesses that any lasting future benefits will be realised.

We knew that Dorriggo met the criteria for being an RV Friendly town, having facilities, such as a dump point, portable water, RV parking, close to CBD, low cost camping grounds, supermarkets, chemist and hospital. etc.

The community needs to be aware of what an RV Friendly town is and how to promote

their businesses to gain the most out of this approval. The majority of this feedback was very positive and we thank all of those who responded.

The new organisation Destination Dorriggo filled in the application form and then Council liaised with the Chamber of Commerce about support in Dorriggo for the application. As Chamber had engaged in the consultation process we were able to supply Council with the necessary feedback that showed business and community support.

Treasurer of the Chamber, Jane Reidy, also met with Kathryn Wood, NPWS Manager of the Dorriggo Rainforest Centre, to discuss local tourism and the RV Friendly application. From this very positive meeting came a letter of support from NPWS for the Council's application which was submitted directly to Council. Bellingen Shire Council then submitted

the RV Friendly application with supporting documents to the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia.

The Chamber looks forward to working with NPWS and

the Dorriggo Rainforest Centre in the future and thanks them for their kind support.

Councillor Desmae Harrison has also thanked the Chamber for their involvement and support for Dorriggo being named an RV Friendly Town.

So what is the next step for Dorriggo as an RV Friendly town?

Council will be able to place RV Friendly Town signs at the entrances to our town. The designation as an RV Friendly Town refers to a town that is friendly toward all travellers in RVs. RV refers to all recreational vehicles including motorhomes, caravans, campervans and camper trailers. This does not include tent camping.

This will mean great publicity for Dorriggo:

- \* CMCA publishes a monthly Club magazine, *The Wanderer*, which is distributed to over 66,000 members.

- \* CMCA maintains a website on which Dorriggo will receive a free listing.

- \* CMCA also maintains a Facebook site which will also announce Dorriggo as a new RV Friendly Town.

The Chamber is committed to providing ideas and promotions to help businesses make the most out of having an RV Friendly Town.

The first idea we will implement is to establish drop boxes at designated places so



that RV travellers can drop their receipts into these. Any receipts from money spent in our town would be deposited and the results published regularly in order to obtain concrete evidence of the benefits RV Travellers bring to town.

If you have any ideas you would like to submit please contact us at [Chamber@dorrigo.com](mailto:Chamber@dorrigo.com)

Stay tuned for more RV Friendly ideas coming your way from the Chamber!

— Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce Inc.



# RV-friendly decision deferred

**BY JAMES TAYLOR**

THE Surf Coast Shire has deferred any decisions on whether Winchelsea will become RV friendly until a later date.

At their meeting on Tuesday, councillors were to consider a report that recommended some first steps in response to Growing Winchelsea's proposal to establish an RV parking area by the Barwon River.

The report states the cost of providing the new service, near the corner of Barwon Terrace and

Mercer Street, would be just under \$40,000 to set up and about another \$40,000 each year, and there was mixed feedback from the community about the proposal (18 submissions in favour and 13 against).

"Broadly, the majority of locals who provided comment were supportive of the proposal.

"However, while many supported the concept of Winchelsea being declared an RV-friendly town, only six submissions were in favour of the proposed RV friendly parking area at the identified site on the Barwon River."

The report further states that while no objections were received from key stakeholders, the Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia had advised the proposed area was too small and, on its own, would not qualify Winchelsea for "RV Friendly Town" status.

"The Winchelsea Caravan Park is opposed to the proposal for RV Friendly parking to be implemented on the Barwon Riverbank as it is in direct opposition to their business. The Caravan Park and the Barwon Hotel are both willing, and have capacity, to provide

RV Friendly sites within their premises to assist Winchelsea on a path to becoming RV Friendly.

"This option provides council with an opportunity to work with local businesses to generate greater yield (length of stay and expenditure by visitors) for Winchelsea at little cost to council."

However, councillors resolved to defer the agenda item for further consideration so the council, according to Cr Heather Wellington, could "further understand the implications before making a decision".



## Rural divers target of joint operation

ONE driver was found to be over the .05 limit and another 11 were issued with infringement notices during a police operation in the Arthur-Pieman area.

Tasmania Police on Monday said that drivers of recreational vehicles were the target of a joint operation between police and Parks and Wildlife Services to increase driver responsibility and awareness in rural and remote areas.

Inspector Patrick Ryan said more than 90 drivers were breath-tested, with one drink-driver returning

a moderate blood alcohol reading.

“RV serious crashes and fatalities do occur in the North-West,” Inspector Ryan said.

“We will be conducting a similar joint operation later this year to ensure that everyone in those areas can enjoy a safe holiday period.”

The operation resulted in 11 infringement notices (five cautions) being issued for traffic and parks matters, including unregistered vehicles and the unlawful use of vehicles within parks areas.



MISSING OUT

# Region blacklisted

## Fraser Coast is regarded as a 'no go' area for RVs

A STRONG and clear message about the value of RVs to Maryborough has been sent through the Maryborough Chamber of Commerce forum by Frans Hamer.

Mr Hamer was president of the Cairns Chamber of Commerce for 13 years, travelled Australia for eight years and he has now settled in the Tinana RV Home Base.

He blasted the Fraser Coast Regional Council camping strategy that he said had inadvertently alienated RV owners with absurd provision for four sites (still not implemented) and an awkward permit system through an off-putting "Stop and Shop" slogan.

I was disappointed to hear Mr Hamer say that the camping strategy, along with signs threatening hefty fines for RVs parking in the region, has resulted in the Fraser Coast now being regarded as a "no-go" area for the \$1.1 billion industry that has been swept by retiring baby boomers in self-contained vehicles looking to freedom camp (or pay low cost for no or few amenities).

Maryborough is ideally situated to attract the RV market and offers services



**Council candidate Darryl Gleich, Frans Hamer and Maryborough Chamber of Commerce vice president Dean Hazelwood.**

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

and attractions that are top of the list of what these new travellers are seeking but urgent action is needed to put accommodation for them in place before the autumn migration north.

The current RV camping strategy is losing businesses money by the day.

Put aside the old grey nomad image: the baby boomers in RVs are a wealthy segment of the tourist market with money to spend.

Listening to Frans speak

just reinforced with me the potential benefits of the Fraser Coast becoming more welcoming to RVs.

The council's camping strategy has grossly underestimated the impact that this industry could have on our area if properly promoted.

This could be another missed opportunity unless we act now.

**DARRYL GLEICH**  
**Division 4 Candidate for the FCRC, Maryborough.**