



Call to tap into caravan increase

BY TANYA MARSCHKE

REGISTRATIONS for caravans and campervans in NSW increased by six per cent from 2015 to 2016 however, an Orange councillor says the city needs to do more to take advantage.

The increase was shown recent in figures in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) motor vehicle census for the year ending January 2016.

Nation wide the figures showed caravans and campervans had the largest growth rate of any vehicle type increasing by 4.5 per cent.

Although Orange does have the Colour City Caravan Park and the Canobolas Caravan Park, Orange City Councillor Kevin Duffy said more needs to be done to lift the town's reputation among caravaners and grey nomads who he said were not included in a lot of the region's tourism marketing.

"The grey nomads are not the target of the wine indus-

try," Cr Duffy said.

"As a councillor I know that Orange's facilities are not anywhere up to standard for what the grey nomads require, a lot of people travel through to Bathurst and Dubbo.

"It's something the new council should work on immediately."

However, the town is not ignoring those who come by

caravan and when the new Visitor Information Centre opens two car and caravan parking spots will also become available in Peisley Street.

Council's traffic committee chairman Russell Turner said it was part of council's bid to make it easier for tourists visiting the city by road.

"There's potentially dozens of caravans and RVs stopping in to see what's on," Cr Turner said.

Caravan & Camping Industry Association NSW CEO Lyndel Gray said the increased registrations coincided with more caravan and

camping visitor nights.

"These figures confirm what we are hearing from our members across NSW, with more people enjoying caravan and camping holidays and the manufacture and sale of recreational vehicles recording strong year-on-year growth," Ms Gray said.

"That's why we have seen a significant 16 per cent increase in caravan and camping visitor nights in NSW last year, growth which has now been backed by this increase in recreational vehicle registrations in the 12 months to January this year."

The figures showed NSW had 15,348 registered campervans, which was up by 10 per cent and 119,263 registered caravans which increased five per cent from January 2015.



RV FRIENDLY STATUS TO DRIVE MOLONG FORWARD

CABONNE Council will begin the process for Molong to become an RV friendly town following the installation of a waste water dump point for campervans, motorhomes and caravans. The dump point has been installed at the Molong caravan park and meets

a key condition for the town to join Canowindra and Manildra as an RV friendly town. To achieve the status a town must meet a guidelines determined by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, including parking and amenities.



Your one-stop-shop for everything RV – and it's here in Penrith!

If you're in the market for a motorhome or caravan, then look no further than Sydney RV Super Centre Penrith.

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Western Weekender Penrith, Penrith

09 Sep 2016

General News, page 81 - 333.00 cm²

Suburban - circulation 54,513 (---T---)

ID 654107570

BRIEF CMCA-AUST INDEX 1.4

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Sydney RV Group **Motorhomes & Caravans**





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Taking a breather, in their RV named "Julee", from all the Temora RV Muster planning is event creator Elaine Costello and her husband, Bib.

Mustering up visitors

Charlie Turnbull

A CONVOY of motorhomes, campervans and caravans will roll into town next year for the inaugural Temora RV Muster.

The event, which will be held in April, will see an influx of visitors into Temora who will stay for a week of activities and tours around the Shire.

Visitors will camp at the Temora Showground for the duration of the muster, with excursions to local restaurants, museums and businesses planned each day.

The seven-day event is the brainchild of Elaine Costello, a local member of the Motorhomes Australia Group who recently organised and ran the successful Gulgong RV muster which saw \$35,000 injected into the local economy.

She says the Temora RV Muster is about presenting Temora as a tourism destination to the RV and caravanning community.

"The purpose is to bring people into town and make more people aware that Temora has the tag of the "friendliest town" in NSW. We really want to bring that to the fore," Mrs Costello said.

"With the week-long muster we can really show people what Temora is about and what we have to offer."

"Who knows, we may even get a few people moving out here after they've visited."

Mrs Costello added the showgrounds can cater for 300 attendees, but at this stage she would be happy with half that number.

"It's hard to tell at this stage how many people will attend, but we're expecting between 150 and 200 people, and we would be pretty pleased with that."

Included in the itinerary will be a market day, where local businesses, clubs and performers will be encouraged to attend and set up stalls.

There will also be a supper dance held at the showground and a camp breakfast and dinners that local residents will be encouraged to attend.

Through a series of raffles and donations, the Temora RV Muster will also raise money for the Temora and District Education Fund (TDEF).

More than \$2400 was contributed to the local fire brigade after the recent Gulgong RV Muster, and Mrs Costello is hoping that a similar amount can be raised for the TDEF during the event.

Mrs Costello can be contacted about the muster on 0410 653 680.



Hit the wide open road

Australia is a natural wonder: here's one van company's top five trips

IT'S time to plan your summer holiday and nothing beats a quintessential Aussie road trip.

From the magnificent outback desert to breathtaking beaches, Australia is blessed with natural wonders and the best way to experience it is on a campervan holiday.

Tourism Research Australia says campervans and motorhomes are one of the fastest-growing commercial accommodation types outside of private rental accommodation.

Britz Campervans brand manager Sally Wells says a campervan road trip offers you the freedom and flexibility to get out and see Australia your way.

Here are Britz Campervans' five top Aussie road trips.

Melbourne to The Grampians

THE Great Ocean Road is a 250km stretch along the south-eastern coast of Australia. The entire journey is Australian National Heritage listed. It is easy to see why as it encompasses majestic scenery, much-loved landmarks and historic sites. In many places, the road hugs the coastline, offering spectacular views of water and beaches.

Adelaide to Alice Springs

WHILE our outback is usually associated with flaming red desert sands

and spectacular rock formations, this stunning landscape also includes underground towns, unique plant life and spectacular gemstones. The road between Adelaide and Alice Springs is one of the easiest in the country, making it the perfect journey for the first-time road trippers. Take a detour through the Clare Valley, one of Australia's oldest wine regions where the first grapes were planted in 1851.

Sydney to Blue Mountains

THE Greater Blue Mountains area is a vast landscape of eucalypts,

waterfalls, sandstone valleys and jaw-dropping scenery. Listed as a World Heritage Site in 2000, the untamed bushland that spans more than one million hectares includes 18 discovery trails that branch off the main route. Each trail offers a special adventure.

Cairns to Cooktown

READY for white-sand beaches, tropical rainforests and quaint coastal villages, all in one drive? The trip from Cairns to Cooktown is an unforgettable coastal journey, embracing two celebrated Aussie beauties: the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics rainforest. Stop at Port Douglas for some vitamin D at Four Mile

Beach before heading to the world's oldest living tropical rainforest: Daintree.

Hobart to Cradle Mountain

WILD landscapes, rich history, delicious food and a laidback attitude – Tasmania is a paradise. With the island's expensive internal flights and lack of highways, a campervan road trip is also extremely economical. Start your journey at Hobart where you can experience the bustling Salamanca Market, then head to Freycinet National Park: home to dramatic pink granite peaks. If you are a surfing enthusiast, make a stop at St Helens before reaching Cradle Mountain.



Northern Star (Lismore), Lismore NSW

09 Sep 2016

General News, page 21 - 606.00 cm²

Regional - circulation 7,870 (MTWTFS-)

ID 654208922

BRIEF CMCA-AUST INDEX 1.6

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FREEDOM CALLS: Make beautiful holiday memories on a camping trip on some of Australia's most spectacular drives.

PHOTO: PETER EVE



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Now this is how to travel

Coast's most luxurious motorhome



KATHY SUNDSTROM

kathy.sundstrom@scnews.com.au

THIS is no ordinary motorhome.

Consider it more a mini-palace or super-plush apartment on wheels.

And you can buy it right here on the Sunshine Coast if you have \$311,990 lying around in your bank account.

With school holidays coming up and many people starting to pack the camper trailer or the tent for a week's camping, the Daily had a look at just how luxurious camping could be, if you had a little cash.

Sunshine State RV's Sean McEvoy has been selling motorhomes for years, but nothing compares to the Sunliner Monte Carlo in his books.

"It is the best motorhome I've seen in 12 years," he said.

The Monte Carlo was first revealed in Brisbane in January and three have sold across the country, including one to a Sunshine Coast businessman who only took ownership of it this week.

"It's not the biggest motorhome," Mr McEvoy said.

"But I'd say it's the best."

Brent Dickson, the agent who sold the Monte Carlo, took us for a tour ahead of

the motorhome being delivered to its new owner.

For a start, the motorhome has four "slide-outs" and one of the them is a walk-in wardrobe.

And what would a camping holiday be without three televisions, a vacuum cleaner, espresso machine and even a top-loading washing machine in the bathroom.

There is even two kitchen sinks, one that is for use outside. Another two slide-outs convert the otherwise squishy lounge area in to a wide expanse with lots of room to move

and another slide-out makes the queen-size bed far more roomy.

The motorhome is not cheap to run, with its turbo-diesel engine using 20

to 25 litres of fuel per 100kms.

Just a small price to pay for being able to travel in style.



The lounge area with its leather furniture.



The shower isn't cramped.



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HOME ON WHEELS: The luxurious Sunliner Monte Carlo has four "slide-outs" and sells for \$311,990. PHOTOS: PATRICK WOODS



Recreational Vehicle Strategy adopted for LP Shire

Liverpool Plains Shire Council (LPSC) has endorsed the LPSC Recreational Vehicle Strategy, as recently put on public exhibition and will begin to follow through with an Action Plan to implement the strategy's recommendations.

"The strategy sets an objective to promote the Shire as a friendly and attractive region for RV (Recreational Vehicle) users by proactively encouraging enhanced visitation, protecting and preserving the environment with effective site management and regulatory requirements while at the same time maximising the economic benefit for the Shire and local businesses. The strategy identifies gaps in provision that currently exist and measures required to meet those

needs whilst also taking local issues into account," said LPSC Mayor, Andrew Hope.

"The development of this comprehensive strategy has involved both community and RV industry liaison. It examines current and future potential for freedom camping areas plus ensuring visitors are aware of the established caravan park where they can restock with water, use laundry facilities and

experience the higher level shower facilities they provide.

"The strategy also investigates infrastructure requirements such as potable water, RV dump points, long vehicle parking, signage, Wi-Fi and pets plus donation boxes and promoting the facilities as well as linkages to broader regional strategies and initiatives," he said.

"The development of the strategy has allowed analysis of the current RV market within the Shire which in turn has identified the series of actions required to follow up. These actions align to objectives in LPSC's Delivery Plan and will greatly aid development of Council's Economic Development Strategy.

"It is expected that Baby Boomers will reach their peak in 2021 and the domestic RV market will continue to grow as it is a very popular retirement activity. To ensure the Shire benefits from its share of visitors it is important the demographic is adequately and appropriately provided for," he continued.

"By taking and involving the community in a Shire-wide approach we can ensure effective methods are in place so

the visitors can enjoy a few days of interesting, low cost adventure, with local businesses able to meet their requirements, plenty of information available on what's on offer and within a friendly, inviting environment," he said.

"Additionally, we are examining expanding the freedom camping areas available throughout the Shire and we will continue to consult with the community on this issue and as other parts of the strategy are rolled out. We will also continue to liaise with RV organisations and are thankful for the input they have provided to date.

"Council welcomes feedback from community members and encourages businesses/organisations who have something to

offer, as well as the chance to benefit from the strategy, to ensure we have all available information to use in promotional material. We intend to make this a win/win for both the RV market and the local economy, so the more involvement and input the better," Councillor Hope concluded.