



## **National Voice for Caravanners**

Until now there has been no united voice to express caravanners' views - but that's about to change with the recent formation of the '*Australian Caravan Club*' a new organization set up by a small band of dedicated and visionary caravanning enthusiasts.

Already the new club has formulated plans for production of a quarterly publication called '*The Nomad*' to keep members informed of developments in the world of caravanning and the activities of their club.

Membership is not limited to caravanners – most camper-trailers qualify under the club's definition of an eligible unit. The wording for the qualifying unit is defined as - "*a registered caravan or similar unit of mobile accommodation with inbuilt facilities for sleeping and food preparation, which is designed to be towed by a powered vehicle upon Australian roads*"

### **No Conflict**

The new club will not be in conflict with existing Caravan Clubs and Associations as it sees its role as something quite different to the mainly social role of most caravan clubs. In fact there is a real expectation that members of clubs will be among the first to realise that caravanners need a strong, united presence to make their views known to all levels of Government and that the *Australian Caravan Club* can provide the way to achieve this.

An example of this can be seen in the UK where two major clubs – *The Caravan Club* and *The Camping and Caravanning Club* have hundreds of thousands of members between them and offer huge member benefits including chains of club owned caravan parks, discounts on a large range of products, route planning assistance, etc. A sizeable number of people belong to both clubs.

Although it will be a while before the Australian counterpart can operate on that scale, the groundwork has already been put in place for rapid membership growth and provision of benefits.

### **Solid Basis**

A great deal of work went into the drawing up of the eighteen pages Constitution that covers every aspect of the club's operation as a Limited Company. This includes having a Board of a Chairman and five Directors including the Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chairman of the Board is Mr Gary Stratton, an IT Manager from Kempsey in NSW and a keen caravanner for many years. Gary is a delegate to the NSW State Association of Caravan Clubs and a regular participant in caravanning forums.

Much of the workload of running an organization falls on the shoulders of the Secretary and the club is fortunate to have Mr Grant Stable in this position. Grant is a qualified Accountant and has held a managerial post of a company with two hundred employees. Grant, and partner Julie Baldwin, are both keen caravanners and live at Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Julie – also a qualified accountant, is the club's Treasurer.

The remaining Board members are experienced caravanner Tom Richards, who lives in Melbourne and has a wealth of mechanical knowledge, and fellow Melburnian, Lionel Mussell who is the author of three caravanning books, writes a monthly column in a caravanning magazine and has his own website devoted to caravanning and RVing.

### **The Sky's the Limit**

Although only in the fledgling stage at the moment, there is a huge potential for the club to grow into a force to be reckoned with once it has a solid base of members enjoying many benefits including discounts, technical advice, social gatherings, and much, much more.

For more information or to download a Membership Application Form go to:

[www.australiancaravanclub.com.au](http://www.australiancaravanclub.com.au)

Email: [info@australiancaravanclub.com.au](mailto:info@australiancaravanclub.com.au)

Or write to: The Secretary, Australian Caravan Club, PO Box 473, GOLDEN BEACH, Qld 4551

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