

# Welcome



**Garry Lee**  
Chairman, CMCA Board  
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In the first board page I wrote as the new chair of the CMCA three years ago, I wrote about the challenges we expected to face as a relatively new board. I made the statement, 'to get to these desired outcomes, the board is going to require your support, patience and trust. These must be the basic requirements of any successful organisation. I have no issues with the membership questioning the board on its activities, and you will find that I am a very open person. My professional background has been based on providing professional information in a clear and concise manner. So, if you need to know something, just ask. After all, we are a Club.'

In last month's board page, I indicated members were discussing the proposed (unsuccessful) changes to the constitution, with some positivity and passion. However, as the date of the AGM drew closer, emotion seemed to get in the way of the facts. The board was accused of 'not being totally open and honest' when of course, under corporations law, full disclosure of all the changes as required by law and confirmed by the Club's solicitors, were provided to members. Having worked for some 40 years in a professional advisory

capacity, where a potential consequence of not being honest could result in a jail term, this accusation was a little disappointing.

It was also disappointing to hear that some members accused the board of referring to a survey that was biased. In effect, it was insinuated that the board influenced Colmar Brunton. They are the largest independent and Australian owned market research agency specialising in product, services and social research.

Sadly, the board was also accused of trying to change CMCA from a club into a corporate organisation. Maybe we need to look at a few facts. There are certain trends in the structure of the Club's membership that the board is certainly concerned about. At June 2012, the Club had 28,468 full memberships with a qualifying vehicle, as required by the current constitution. At June 2017, just five years later, we now have only 25,000 full memberships. We are losing an average of 700 qualifying vehicles each year. A very common statement in any organisation is 'that if you are not growing, you are dying', and I am certain that none of us want that to happen. At June 2017, CMCA had 12,994 associate memberships, so currently, figures show that one in every three memberships hold associate memberships. The influx of associate memberships is compensating for the loss of full memberships. As a Club, how do we manage this into the future? It will be an issue that all members need to address, as the current constitution dictates that only members can make the decisions around the solutions.

Another rumour was that the board intended on changing the name of the Club. This has never been contemplated, or even discussed. It seemed this was based on a couple of factors. One, it seemed, was the changing nature of our RV fleet as mentioned above. There is no need for our Club to change its name. It

also seems that members thought a name change was coming as we have numerous similar company names registered. This is necessary in order to protect ourselves from organisations or individuals wanting to make themselves look like us. Members would be unaware that last year an ex-member of the Club registered Motorhome & Campervan Club of Australia, ready to establish an alternative Club. The membership fee was \$44 too, what a surprise. When our solicitors sent a stern communication to this individual, pointing out the laws around 'passing off', this matter was quickly resolved.

There have also been some stories circulating about GeoWiki. One scenario was that we had sold GeoWiki. A conflicting story was that the board decided to scrap GeoWiki. Seeing we have now more than 20,000 downloads and invested more than \$100,000 towards the platform, this would have been a strange decision. GeoWiki is a huge member benefit and we will continue investment in this product to advance its features and capabilities.

Referring to my original comment in December 2014, if you have heard something that doesn't quite sound correct, please ask the board. Our email addresses are in every edition of *The Wanderer*. The board must make commercial decisions on a regular basis, and we appreciate that we are accountable to the membership for these decisions. But please, don't make comments in a public domain when you are unaware of all the facts. On behalf of the board, I would like to offer you, your family and friends all our best wishes for the Christmas and New Year festive season. If you are travelling, please travel safely. Catch you somewhere in the New Year.

*Travel Safely and Laugh More - Live Longer*  
Garry Lee A67278  
Chairman, on behalf of the CMCA  
Board of Directors

**Board of Directors**

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