

# Welcome



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Our Club, the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Limited (CMCA), has a proud history of achievements for our members and the travelling public. Our membership only represents a very small percentage of the 620,000 registered recreational vehicles in Australia, but our Club does most of the 'heavy lifting', on behalf of our fellow travellers. As I have said many times, we punch way above our weight in many of the issues that are part of the RV travel experience.

Government awareness, especially within local government, continues to grow, as many councils are aware of our Club and what we stand for. This has not come without a lot of effort from staff and members, over many years, and a large investment of our funds. Like it or not, the Board believes that this will continue to attract new members, allowing the Club to grow and prosper. As with any organisation, this growth will need to be properly coordinated by the Board and management. All members have a role to play in making this work, by being open, welcoming, and positive.

Throughout the process of the constitution review and the proposed amendments, which were delivered to our Annual General Meeting in October, the Board has been impressed by the quality of the debate and discussion over the issues that have caused substantial difficulty and

emotion in past years. I even saw one reference to the fact that these issues had caused substantial rifts in the Club in the past, and hoped this wasn't going to happen again. The Board received a few emails from members disagreeing on some issues, and there were certainly differing opinions on the CMCA Member Forum, but in our opinion, none of these are going to split the Club. The 'them' and 'us' card was hardly mentioned. The Board will continue to operate under the terms of reference, as set out in the Club's strategic plan, so it will be business as usual.

What the Board thought was missing, was the general lack of understanding of how inclusive our Club really is. We all know that sometimes the RV travelling public doesn't understand this either, as we often get 'bagged' on other online forums from time to time. Take it from me, this is also very disheartening from the Board's point of view, as we think the criticism is generally without fact or knowledge. It sometimes seems that CMCA gets caught up in the great Australian game of 'tall poppy syndrome', which I'm sure many of us have been participants at some time in our lives.

So let's start with our greatest achievement, one that benefits all RV travellers, our RV Friendly program, which in many cases has involved the installation of dumps points and access to potable water. First established back in 2006, we now have some 460 towns and destinations participating, which is quite a remarkable achievement. No other Australian RV club has tried to duplicate or add anything to this program. As soon as we announce a new town and the facilities offered, it is posted on a well-known and well used online travelling guide for all RV travellers to access. Very often it ends up on this guide even before it is released on GeoWiki, sometimes by our own members. This just happens, so it is immediately accessible to all RV travellers.

Did you know that when a town or destination makes an application for this status, the form refers to a town that is friendly to all travellers in recreational

vehicles? Where large and small vehicles have equal access to facilities such as parking, shopping, a dump point, and potable water? It doesn't talk about campervans, motorhomes, and self-propelled vehicles, just recreational vehicles in general.

Let's look at the make-up of our membership for inclusiveness. We have 37,994 memberships, equating to some 70,000 members. Of these memberships, 11,350 are single members (not to be confused with the Solos SIG) meaning approximately 30% of members do not have a secondary member listed on the membership. The Club would seem to accommodate both singles and couples.

Our inclusiveness is also evident in our 35,900 vehicle fleet. We have all types of vehicles: 2400 campervans; 17,800 motorhomes; 1800 fifth wheelers; 1900 buses/coaches; 1100 slide-ons; 100 camper trailers; 5000 caravans; 5600 passengers vehicles; and 200 classed as other. I would think we pretty much have the whole range of RVs covered.

Does it really matter what the people parked next door to you in the camping area or caravan park are travelling in? The evidence that the Board witnessed through the whole Constitution debate was that many CMCA members now see this as irrelevant. There is the classic saying that at the end of the day, "we are all doing the same thing".

So, as the largest and most influential RV club in Australia, CMCA needs to continue this inclusiveness of all RV travellers. We need to adapt to change, as the market changes. We need to continue to be in front of governments at all levels, particularly local government, as they see us as the 'mouth piece' of the RV traveller. They need our help and expertise. As stated, the Board is the elected body to manage the strategic direction of the Club, and we will continue to do this.

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