

CCI sub,39

Beckingham, Vanessa

From: Jennifer Sherwood

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2009 2:51 PM

Subject: caravan parks

Attachments: It was with interest and quite by chance that I noticed the advertisement for the Inquiry into the Provision.doc; img013.jpg

Good afternoon.

Attached are some thoughts about caravan parks as seen by myself, a park visitor.

If this does constitute a submission, please let me know and I will forward a signed hard copy. Time and circumstance did allow me to present a more in depth comment.

Kind regards

Jennifer Sherwood

Get the new Windows Live Messenger. [Looking for a fresh way to share photos?](#)

It was with interest and quite by chance that I noticed the advertisement for the Inquiry into the Provision, Use and Regulation of Caravan Parks (and Camping Grounds) in W.A.

My husband and I are caravanners and have been for over 20 years. We also owned an on-site van for 14 years in a coastal mid west park. We have patronised many van parks throughout Australia.

We are now retired and have a limited income. For the costs of fuel and van park tariffs, we could easily travel overseas. However, we want to spend our money in this country. There seems little incentive to do so.

I'm sure I speak for many Aussie travellers when I list our basic van park needs.

- Clean well lit facilities- toilets, showers and laundries
- All facilities functioning correctly eg. power outlets, hot water systems, washing machines
- Good park security in "troubled" towns
- Friendly helpful staff
- Somewhere to sit and chat with fellow travellers
- Shade
- Relative freedom from dust
- A van park where our dog is welcome
- A fair and reasonable rate of tariff

We don't need a resort.

We don't have to have a pool/tennis courts.

We don't even have to have a shop.

Toilet dump points are not necessary within all parks but should be readily available in towns.

I have included a letter printed in the Caravan and Motorhome magazine number 126, dated 1/4/09. The author sums up many caravanners views.

Just a point of interest- apart from people associated with van park ownership/management, have you asked for input from the travelling patrons?

LETTERS

LETTER OF THE MONTH

SIGHT THE PRICE AND PRICE THE SITE

I recently read one of your articles on free camping (Issue 121). We are a retired couple who spend 6-9 months of each year on the road: north in the winter, south in the summer and have done so for the last nine years. During this time we have experienced the best, the worse, the outrageously overpriced, the nicest operators, the most fantastic parks with the delightful friendly operators and those with reasonable charges.

We prefer to stop in caravan parks and are happy to pay a reasonable rate for the service provided. But we are not prepared to pay some of the exorbitant fees being asked by some operators. Over the last year or so we have taken to camping out or bypassing those who think their powered site is worth more than \$25 per night; the only exception being in capital cities.

Park owners and operators who complain about free camping and press local authorities to enforce a no camping ban within 50km should come to the realisation that they need to compete for this business, not to try and squeeze every last dollar out of the client. Parks are charging up to \$600 per week, high season, for a powered site. Many parks are setting fees of around \$45 per day. We, like many others on the road, are driving right past these greedy operators to stop in a park with reasonable fees or to camp out free.

I'm told that at any one time there are 70-80 thousand vans on the road. If only one third of these vans camp out then the park operators are losing 35,000 night fees every day. If I had an investment in a van park, then I would do the utmost to compete and attract people to my park, not see my park 60 percent empty for the majority of the year. Let the park operators understand that half a site fee is better than no site fee.

We have adopted the policy of stopping at a park or phoning ahead, asking the rate and never paying for more than the first two nights. Many parks are substandard and have issues like noise,

disgusting ablution blocks, or are overpriced for what you get. I have at some parks checked out the facilities against the price and simply driven away.

Currently we are heading south along the coast from Cairns to Melbourne, stopping 3-7 nights between stops. At each location there have been a number of parks to stop at with prices varying from \$55 down to \$10.50 and extra discounts for staying the week. We have been staying in the lower priced parks and find them 50-70 percent full with the expensive parks nearly empty. Isn't that a lesson in itself?

Park operators need to realise we travellers compare notes whenever we meet: some discuss are the parks along the way, prices, facilities, and the free camping options. If you have a good experience, then you tell others, but if you have a bad experience then you are sure to tell all you come in contact with and make a point of doing so.

The lesson to learn here is that the park operators are their own worst enemy; their greed has created a monster in the form of free camping. We would certainly stay in parks if they were of a reasonable price and with reasonable facilities, but until this happens we will seek out the free camps and keep our hard-earned retirement funds.

Barbara & John
Dunedin

Caravaners, some excellent parks here that certain operators would do well to learn from. As I have noted, we are here in the long run, using good sites and making hard prices well probably pay us out of some of our current favorite parks.

By the same token, though, that we should be the same places that will be the overcrowded and overcrowded to be enjoyed anytime anyway. Every park operator of which there are many will continue to offer excellent service and great prices, and give us the opportunity to have them out and experience them. Surely the task to be camping in order to come. Went into the local caravan park is booked. Most of us want rather than be that be treated like cattle to be sold. If you do find a great park, let us know, we'd love to share it. [SE]

SWEAT PROOF

UP TO 12 HRS PROTECTION

CAUTION

BUSHMAN PLUS

PERSONAL INSECT REPELLENT

DEET 50% (50% DEET)

YOUR PERSONAL BODYGUARD

www.bushmanplus.com

Protecting You from Mosquitoes & Nuisance Insects

THERMA SHIELD

REVOLUTIONARY

PAINT-ON AIR CONDITIONING

Therma Shield is a flexible and durable liquid applied ceramic membrane technology that reflects and absorbs heat, reducing energy consumption and cooling costs.

FEATURES:

- Reduces energy consumption
- Reduces cooling costs
- Reduces maintenance costs
- Reduces environmental impact
- Reduces carbon footprint
- Reduces noise
- Reduces odors
- Reduces dust
- Reduces mold
- Reduces mildew
- Reduces bacteria
- Reduces viruses
- Reduces fungi
- Reduces algae
- Reduces lichen
- Reduces moss
- Reduces fungi
- Reduces bacteria
- Reduces viruses
- Reduces fungi
- Reduces algae
- Reduces lichen
- Reduces moss

AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED

SUMMER 2011 - 2012

WINNER

Therma Shield is the only and exclusive liquid applied ceramic membrane technology that reflects and absorbs heat, reducing energy consumption and cooling costs. Therma Shield is the only and exclusive liquid applied ceramic membrane technology that reflects and absorbs heat, reducing energy consumption and cooling costs. Therma Shield is the only and exclusive liquid applied ceramic membrane technology that reflects and absorbs heat, reducing energy consumption and cooling costs.

AUSTRALIAN PAINTS PTY LTD

1555 Kew Street, Kew, VIC 3101

03 9578 4244 / 03 9578 4245

www.australianpaints.com