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Caravanning boom in Casey as Victorians seek affordable, flexible travel

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The inaugural Cranbourne Caravanning & Adventure Leisurefest kicked off on Friday, spotlighting the growing interest in Casey. (Stewart Chambers: 551788)



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by Jency Callimootoo

Rising living costs, global uncertainty and growing pressure on household budgets are reshaping the way Victorians travel, placing Casey at the centre of the shift.

Caravan Industry Victoria (CIV) hosted its first show in Cranbourne on Friday 8 May, adding the growing corridor to its list of 'super-show' suburbs across the state.

The event welcomed local politicians include Cranbourne's MP Pauline Richards and Casey councillor Jennifer Dizon.

As the industry warns of mounting structural pressures following the release of the Victorian State Budget, the launch of the inaugural Cranbourne Caravanning & Adventure Leisurefest, is being positioned as both a response to changing consumer behaviour and a signal of the sector's growing economic importance.

New figures show more than 8,000 recreational vehicles (RVs) are now registered across the City of Casey, with 3,028 based in Cranbourne and Botanic Ridge alone.

Across Casey and the Cardinia Shire 5,620 RVs are registered in key growth postcodes.

CIV's Chief Executive Daniel Sahlberg said Australians were increasingly turning to caravanning as international travel became more expensive and unpredictable.

"In a climate of ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and rising international travel complexity, Australians are increasingly turning to caravanning as a more secure and self-directed way to travel," he said.

The growing popularity of caravanning is being driven not only by lifestyle changes, but also by cost of living pressures that are pushing more families toward domestic travel options that offer flexibility and affordability.

That demand has helped position Cranbourne as a new focal point for the industry.

"This region is leading the state in RV ownership, and that tells a very clear story about demand," Sahlberg said.

But while consumer demand remains strong, CIV says the industry itself is operating in increasingly difficult economic conditions.

The organisation says the 2026/27 Victorian Budget contains limited targeted investment for tourism, manufacturing and caravan industry support, despite Victoria producing 93 per cent of Australia's more than 31,000 caravans and RVs annually.

CIV warned rising land and payroll taxes, weak tourism investment and planning uncertainty surrounding caravan parks were placing increasing pressure on operators and manufacturers.

"Caravan and camping is a key part of Victoria's visitor economy and a major contributor to regional communities, yet this budget provides little in the way of targeted support for tourism growth," Sahlberg said.

"With consumer confidence still subdued and costs continuing to rise, many businesses are operating in a challenging environment."

The industry body says the Victorian caravan and camping sector contributes \$3.5 billion to the state economy and supports more than 12,500 jobs, with much of the manufacturing supply chain based in Victoria.

CIV is continuing to advocate for stronger support measures, including investment in domestic tourism incentives, manufacturing assistance, workforce training, improved caravan standards and road safety

initiatives.

Despite concerns over funding and taxation pressures, the association believes caravanning will continue to grow as Australians increasingly prioritise affordable and flexible travel options closer to home.



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[Waste solution needed for Sth East, inquiry hears](#) →

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Barry's 3D printing triumph

Barry Clay, a Cranbourne-based carver, has etched his name into effect hands, but he's a successful 3D printing business called his hands 3D.

Using experimentation and adaptive techniques, he has 3D machines produce and transform the designs, toys and sensory objects.

What began as a hobby grew into a thriving venture, boosted by social media exposure.

Beginning with one, Barry now manufactures 3D printers and handles all aspects of production independently.

His highly innovative, creative, industry and deep power of technology in open experimentation, proving that physical factors can not define talent or entrepreneurial success.

For more on this story, turn to page 11

Barry Clay began 3D printing as a hobby, but not long after, followed by social media, he won't 3D machines in a professional business. (Barry's Cranbourne 50523)

Budget pushback

By Jenny Callinicos

Carey Moore and chief of Greater Melbourne Councils (OMC), Brian Koonen, has pushed back on the state budget, arguing it falls short of meeting the growing needs of our councils.

The 2020-21 Victorian State Budget released on Tuesday 1 May outlined some broader measures to health, education, transport and infrastructure – but OMC argues that it was "under-scaled" with "modest spending".

State councils form part of the OMC alliance, including: Greater, Cardinia, Shire, Hume, City, Melbourne City, Melton, Sunbury, City of Whittlesea, Wyndham City and Yarra Ranges.

With the rising of the Greater Melbourne Fund (GMF) last financial year, Melbourne's state role, which have underwritten their concerns for a lack of investment in key infrastructure in the population continues to grow.

"In this Budget, the government response falls short of what is needed, at a time when our communities are experiencing some of the least-secure growth pressures in the state," said Moore.

Ahead of the budget release, the OMC called for a replacement of the GMF, addressing illegal dumping and reforms to the Council Wasteland.

It also called for improvements to bus services, which was a key investment in the budget, involving a \$100 million investment in bus-to-bus transfers. OMC – this was not covered by the alliance group.

For more on this story, turn to page 9.



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Fortunate fortnight required as battle for top four heats up

Only two weeks remain in the Summer Season of the South West Gippsland Dart League (SWGDL) and the competition for top-four positions is really starting...



Marvellous Magpies make it 4-0



Waste solution needed for Sth East, inquiry hears



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Glass-bin rollouts to begin in Casey, with kerbside contracts already signed, council reveals



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Gibbs and Richardson settle down for a sensational shootout

Two magnificent shootouts between four of the big guns of the Mountain Dart League provided the Division 1 fireworks in round 12 on Friday night. Dean Gibbs and Chris Richardson...



Chattering teeth can't stop Shears from celebrating victory

SWGMW BOWLS Polo shirts were packed away and replaced with jackets and beanies as 32 members of the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowling Group headed to San Remo for the...



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Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne debuts new home gardening initiative

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne has launched a new initiative to inspire and educate visitors on basic home gardening tips. Through its new 'How to Garden' program, visitors will...



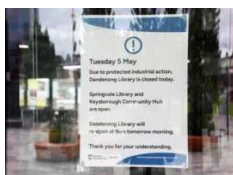
Casey continues environmental commitment

Casey Council will aim to plant thousands of trees over the next two years through their climate initiative. As part of their Greening Casey Plan, the council will be investing...



G8 Education shuts 40 childcare centres including Cranbourne West

Two G8 Education childcare centres in Cranbourne West and Springvale are among the 40 centres to be closed across...



Dandenong workers join 'largest-ever' council strike

Purchase this photo from Pic Store: 551008 Greater Dandenong Council staff were among what their union described as the "largest ever" local government...



Doveton Pool 'fully funded' after Budget boost

Doveton Pool in the Park's \$19 million redevelopment is a step closer to full funding after a State Budget allocation of \$500,000. Dandenong MP Gabrielle...



Spiritual leader's 105th Birthday celebrated in Cranbourne

A local spiritual organisation in Cranbourne welcomed over 50 members of the Ananda Marga community on Saturday 2 May as they marked...



Algae warning at Wilson Botanic Park

Berwick's Wilson Botanic Park has been plagued by blue-green algae in its waterways, with treatment expected to be ongoing in the following weeks. The park issued a warning on Monday...

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