

# The Mid North BROADCASTER

Burra, Eudunda, Jamestown, Peterborough and Areas

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

## Camping group at Princess Royal

By Michelle Osborn

A large group consisting of members of the Australian CamperTrailers Group will be enjoying a weekend of camping at Princess Royal Station this weekend Friday, May 18 to Sunday, May 20.

The trip will see about 40 to 50 campers arrive for the weekend.

Special guests for the weekend will be Rob and Carol Sanderson, co-owners of the Australian CamperTrailers Group, who will be in South Australia to attend a wedding at the time.

The non profit Australian CamperTrailers Group started in September 2001 and provides a place for members to chat which is free of commercial advertising, pressures or promotion.

Weekend meets have includ-

ed Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth with a national get together planned in Wellington, New South Wales in October 2012.

The average member of the Australian CamperTrailers Group lives in Queensland, New South Wales or Victoria and has a full time job.

They are members of a 4WD club and have been camper trailering for around one to five years, buying new after upgrading from a number of years camping with a tent. They prefer to bush camp all year round with minimum amenities.

Hosted by Burra's Mike and Leonie Fretwell, Mr Fretwell said as only two South Australian members go to the national meet in New South Wales each year, he felt this would be a great opportunity to play host and for other SA members to meet Rob and Carol.

"I have run similar, but much smaller weekends before at Old Belcunda and Cadell," he said.

"So far our attendance looks like being 50/50 with interstates coming from as far as Newcastle, Bendigo, Warnambool and Sydney.

"We had 20 CamperTrailers sign up originally, but a few have dropped out now as we get closer to the date.

"All for legitimate family reasons, I must say."

On their arrival at Princess Royal Station, campers will be directed to the property's camping area around the shearers' quarters.

No formal activities are planned for the weekend, however, the Group is encouraged to visit Burra, explore tracks and the Burra Creek, also take the opportunity to follow the Burra Passport Trail.

In Australia the camper trailer

has become popular and is perfect for the Australian camping lifestyle, whether it be weekends away or an extended trip into the great outdoors where no facilities exist.

There are many members who have joined the Australian CamperTrailers Group, seeking advice when it comes to buying a camper trailer.

The Fretwells purchased their first camper trailer 22 years ago and, "At the time we were very much the odd ones out."

"There were very few camper trailers around," Mr Fretwell said.

"After that one got written off by being tail-gated, and with the benefit of our experiences we bought our current one five years ago from a firm in Adelaide.

"It is a great way to camp and see Australia."