



There has been so much sad news this year with fires, floods and the economy that we feel like starting autumn with some good news. This therefore is:

THE 100% GOOD NEWS EDITION

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CARETAKERS

PARTY TO FAREWELL TED AND LYN AND WELCOME LEIGH AND KATHRYN INVITATION

We had an impressive list of candidates to interview and it was difficult to reduce the list to just one couple. After much deliberation, we are pleased to announce that Leigh Miller and Kathryn Maher will be the new caravan park caretakers. You may already know them from their band Rustik. Leigh is their lead guitarist and Kathryn (Seckold) is their lead singer and a songwriter. Leigh comes to us from the Yarrowonga and Border Golf Club where he has worked on accommodation and grounds maintenance. Before that he worked in their bar, and has done a variety of demanding jobs, so he has a good practical background. Kathryn has worked in office administration, bar and retail positions, and on the Paddlesteamer Cumberona, but she is also an outdoor girl and likes horse-riding. Leigh is a talented footballer and hopes to get a run with Mitta United. He is also an experienced guitar teacher and would consider taking students - young or old. Kathryn spent a lot of time at Mitta as a child, and both have stayed in the park in the past and are familiar with the area. We found them to be an attractive couple, keen to get stuck into the job, and felt they would have a lot to add to the local community on top of the skills needed to run the park. We wish them well and hope everyone will make them welcome, be patient as they learn to do the job, and help them settle into Mitta.

To the other candidates, a big thank-you, although you did make our task harder. The interviews were held over the dreadful bushfire weekend, but all turned up, sold their talents well, and and sparkled despite the oppressive conditions. Good luck in the future to all of you!

All members of the Mitta community & the Park community are invited to a party to be held at the Camp Kitchen on April 5th at 12:30pm to wave goodbye to Ted & Lyn and wish them good luck as they set off on their travels & retirement & to meet & welcome Leigh & Kathryn & introduce yourselves.

A sausage sizzle will be provided.

Please bring your own drinks



REALLY GOOD NEWS !! A Grant to help with the Caretakers Residence

After applying for endless grants to help us upgrade the caretaker's residence and having no luck we had almost given up when, as part of the Federal Government's pre-Christmas stimulus package, Towong Shire was given \$384,000 to allocate to community projects. Like many other groups in the shire we appealed for funding and are thrilled that we were recommended for a grant of \$30,000. Assuming that our project is accepted by the Federal Government, we have to complete the project by September 2009 - the idea is to stimulate the economy by getting the money out into the communities quickly. We plan to finish well before then.

As anyone who has built anything recently knows, \$30,000 does not go far, but at the moment we plan to do as follows: After Ted and Lyn move out, the committee will have a working bee and strip out the old building to see what state the stumps, frame etc are in. This will then give builders an idea of what they are in for when they quote for the refurbishment of the residence. In the spirit in which the money is given, we will try to allocate work to different tradesmen. We will contact builders in the area and ask for quotes on various stages of the process. We will need lots of voluntary input too.

After the residence is repaired, we will link the residence to the cabin which is now ready for Leigh and Kathryn to move into. With the two buildings linked, we hope it will provide a comfortable home, not just for them, but for a long time into the future.

Leigh & Kathryn



The new caretaker's cabin



