

Port wins praise as convention centre

Port Macquarie and the Hastings Valley has again been praised for its suitability for large conventions by the Worldwide Church of God.

The church is holding an eight-day convention at the RSL Club for the third year in succession and is delighted with the hospitality and service received.

This follows a successful two-day Amway Convention at the club last weekend which was attended by more than 600 people.

The club is also preparing for the NSW Local Government Association's conference, which starts on October 26 and is expected to attract about 1000 people.

A spokesman for the Worldwide Church of God said each year the members attending the convention had enjoyed the town, the climate and the people in Port Macquarie.

He said they intended to come back to Port Macquarie next year and for many years after.

There are 1000 people attending the convention, which is also being held at the same time at 86 sites around the world.

About 5000 people are attending similar conventions at eight venues in Australia.

The delegates in Port Macquarie come from

throughout Australia and overseas.

The spokesman said it was difficult to find a place in Australia with a room large enough for the convention and accommodation and other facilities close at hand.

"The facilities at the Port Macquarie RSL Club are excellent and the staff and management of the club are very helpful and courteous," he said.

"We certainly seem to be favored by the motel people here because we have had nothing but help from agents and moteliers."

He said before coming to Port Macquarie, the convention had suffered from

greedy motellers and businesses in other areas.

"We held the convention in other areas but restaurants, motels and businessmen sometimes took advantage of us and put up prices," he said.

"Everyone at the convention seems to be very happy with the shopping facilities and the courteous attention from the business houses.

"It certainly encourages our members to stay and many have booked in to stay another week."

The spokesman said the church was very family orientated and the many activities and facilities in the Hastings Valley were ideal

for the members attending the convention.

There are 40 Worldwide Churches of God in Australia and they are holding the convention to celebrate a Biblical festival, the Feast of the Tabernacle.

The spokesman said the church followed the same teachings as the early apostolic church

People from all walks of life and different age groups are attending the convention.

It involves a church service in the RSL auditorium each day, family barbecues, beach parties, a ballroom dance, and senior's get-togethers.