Merry Christmas to all our readers

Here's hoping that everyone has a wonderful holiday season

With Christmas just around the next corner and a memory-filled 2017 soon to appear in the rear view mirror, we at the Grey Nomad Times would like to take the opportunity to wish readers all the very best for the festive season.

Whether you’re parking up at a secluded bush camp hoping for a relatively quiet Yuletide celebration, or you’re about to join the holiday hordes at popular national parks and caravan parks, we hope you can reflect on an adventure-packed year gone by … and look forward to 12 more months of exactly the same!

It's the time of the year, of course, when some road-weary grey nomads choose to take a break from their Big Lap adventures to spend much anticipated family time with children and grandchildren.

Wherever you are spending this magical time – and whoever you are spending it with – we would like to thank you once again for all of your support and encouragement throughout past year. In 2017, the GNT has continued to grow and now boasts close to 20,000 subscribers. As we have said in previous years though, the success of the GNT cannot simply be measured by the number of readers it enjoys. The level of positive and active engagement it sparks perhaps offers an even more accurate indication of the newsletter’s health.

Each and every issue we are inundated with hundreds of emails from nomads eager to share their views on the stories of the day, or a tip or two, or to ask for advice, or to share an experience. It is the feedback we receive – both good and bad – that makes putting out the GNT such a rewarding experience.

While we’ve enjoyed sharing the journey so far with you, the good news is that the road ahead looks even more exciting. We will be bringing you more news, more features, more quizzes, more competitions, more advice, more destination information … and more fun.

We hope that in 2018, the GNT will continue to enrich the on-the-road adventures of grey nomads, and perhaps inspire and encourage a new army of wannabe grey nomads to take the Big Lap plunge.

See you on the road!

* Please note that The Grey Nomad Times will be on holiday and will not be published on December 29. Edition 163 will be in your in-box on January 5, 2018.

Click to comment

GNT readers plagued by van problems

There are tens of thousands of grey nomads living the dream on the open road … but an extraordinarily high proportion of them have seemingly had to endure unnecessary anguish to get there.

A whopping 76.2% of respondents to our recent GNT poll on the issue revealed they have had problems with their brand new caravans. While the results should be treated with caution as people who have had issues are more likely to respond to the survey, they still hint at an industrial-sized problem.

Roy and Jany W had a horror first long trip in their $70,000 Jayco Silverline. “Doors fell off, water wouldn’t flow, water ingress the front storage, interior lights failed to work … the list goes on,” they said.

Similarly, Kevin V found a litany of problems with his Jayco Journey. “I was in Bourke and, when I closed the boot, it came off in my hands!” he said.

Ric K says his current Spinifex van has been great, but his previous Coromal was a ‘disaster’. “It was supposed to be semi-off-road,” he said. “But, on the Plenty Highway … bad news!”

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A station adventure

‘Answering an ad to help at a remote station took our Big Lap to the next level’

Having already completed a Big Lap in 2014, grey nomads Ray and Christine Boreham were looking to find something ‘different’ when they rented out their Adelaide house and hit the open road again late last year.

Travelling with kayaks helped bring a new perspective, and heading up to places like Cape York brought a new sense of challenge … but still the couple wanted more. Then, a couple of months ago, they saw an ad in the Grey Nomad Times that read:

“Come experience life in the outback. Young couple with two sons (3½ years and 8 months), wanting a couple to help out with the kids and odd jobs around the homestead in exchange for power, water, all your food, a bath and the chance to explore the property.”

After making contact with managers Georgie and Hugh, the couple were soon hooking up their 18’6 Island Star van and heading to Talalara Station halfway between Tilpa and White Cliffs in outback New South Wales.

Now, eight weeks later, they can reflect on a life-changing experience and will value forever the relationships they have formed with Georgie and Hugh and their young boys, Felix and Alfie.

Although Ray and Christine had the option of staying in the old homestead, they preferred to stay in their own van, although they quickly grew close enough to the family to eat their evening meals with them.

Christine normally headed over to the house around 9am each day to help with the children, while Ray would work through a ‘wish list’ of tasks that included such things as installing a watering system, painting, fixing leaking taps, and fitting fly screens.

“We would then meet at the caravan for lunch and, although our afternoons were free, we were normally drawn back to spend some time in some way with the family which was our choice,” said Christine. “We are in awe of the people who work and live here; the hours they work, and then their easy laughter and friendship.”

And, as their station adventure draws to a close, Ray and Christine can reflect on other unforgettable experiences such as helping to haul cows from bog holes, seeing off a big brown snake from the garden, learning to drive quad bikes, witnessing massive dust storms, and countless memories of stunning sunsets and Outback serenity.

“We have had an amazing experience, met some beautiful people, and we have made – we are sure – lifelong friends,” said Christine. “We are thrilled that we took the risk.”

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Surveys

Has the wind ever given you an on-the-road scare?

Green Nomad Times

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Smells gone!
Dark tourism shines

The 'dark side' of tourism is gaining momentum ... and Australia has lots to offer

Grey nomads fully expect to find stunning scenery, endless adventure, and a unique sense of camaraderie as they travel ... but many are discovering a different side to the Big Lap. While sunsets and seascapes are the traditional attractions of extended trips, caravanners and motorhomers are following a worldwide trend and seeking out scenes of gruesome crimes and murders. The concept of dark tourism is not a new one. The locations of mass killings such as Auschwitz, Tuol Sleng in Cambodia, and Ground Zero in New York have spawned an unlikely tourism industry. Similarly, former prisons such as Alcatraz, and Robben Island in South Africa have, to some extent, ‘cashed in’ on their notoriety.

In Australia, the deadly deeds of notorious bushrangers such as Ned Kelly are ‘celebrated’, and the human suffering at former penal colonies is recalled for the education – and possibly entertainment – of visitors. The most iconic example is Tasmania’s Port Arthur Historic Site where convicts lived and died in horrific conditions. Between 1833 and 1877 more than 1,000 people were buried on the Isle of the Dead, and Travellers can now join a guided tour to the island to re-live their horror.

Port Arthur was also the scene of the 1996 shooting in which 35 people were killed. Today, a simple plaque and a garden with a pond commemorates the victims of the crime. Most tourism operators are aware of the need for sensitivity when recalling horrific events.

While the locations of sites where Indigenous Australians were slaughtered are certainly not major tourist attractions, memorial plaques are in place at many. For example, at Red Rock near Coffs Harbour, a simple sign recalls the Bloodrock Massacre from the 19th century.

Dark tourism has now moved from historical facts to made-up events. The release of the Wolf Creek horror movie sparked a significant spike in tourism at WA’s Wolfe Creek. “They just want to go out for photos and to say they have been,” said Halls Creek Tourism Manager, Natasha Niven. “There are no plaques or details about the movie at the national park … but we do sell ‘I Survived Wolfe Creek’ stickers, magnets, T-shirts and caps at the tourist centre.”

Win tickets to Mrs Brown LIVE

‘For The Love of Mrs Brown’ is the latest production of the side-splitting series written by and starring Brendan O’Carroll. We are giving away double passes to one performance in each of the cities listed below. To win, email us the answer to the following trivia question, indicating your preferred performance:

Elish O’Carrol, who plays Mrs. Brown’s lovable neighbour Winnie, is the real-life sister of which other Mrs. Brown’s Boys cast member?

Winners will be drawn from correct answers and will receive a double pass to one of the following performances: NEWCASTLE: 18 Jan, 7.30pm, Newcastle Entertainment Centre SYDNEY: 25 Jan, 7.30pm, Qudos Bank Arena MELBOURNE: 31 Jan, 7.30pm, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre BRISBANE: 8 Feb, 7.30pm, Brisbane Entertainment Centre PERTH: 15 Feb, 7.30pm, Perth Arena ADELAIDE: 22 Feb, 7.30pm, Adelaide Entertainment Centre

Click to comment
Do GNT readers want to keep in touch on the road?  
Well … yes … and no!

Re: Trapped by Technology (GNT: 161). After 50 years of travelling around Australia, I reckon there have been changes for the good and for the worse. In the ‘60s and ’70s it was easier to find a quiet camp spot and we never got moved on. However, we had to dig a hole for the dump and burn the loo paper to stop the crows digging it up. Then we had to carry maps and books so we did not get lost. And I still remember my hubby on top of Wave Rock relaying my words to the kids as it was the only mobile reception in the area! These days, with all the extra nomads, there is always someone to talk to or help you. There are dump points, free wi-fi, and there is always an accessible place for mobile signals. Change can be good.

Ruth C

Modern communications makes living on the road possible, and enables us to keep in touch with family and manage two rental properties. We wouldn’t be here (seven years on the road) without mobile phones and emails!

Alison S

On a trip earlier this year, we encountered a few problems with flat tyres etc in semi-remote areas. We also lost a wheel from our caravan on an isolated stretch of road and we required assistance with towing. Without our mobile phones, we would have had to rely on passing traffic for help. Our bills at home still keep coming even on holidays and being able to receive them by email and pay by the internet is, for us, a great convenience.

Robyn & Phillip D

I have found a really effective way of staying out of touch – it’s called the ‘off button’. Easy!

Terry L

We have just spent five days in Wonnangatta Valley in Victoria. It was a 4WD trip in and out, with no phone or radio, and plenty of cooling off in the river. It was an absolute tonic for the soul.

Alan J

We take Jenga and Monopoly and other board games with us on our trips, as well as packs of cards, and we’ll take the dogs for walks and go metal detecting. Life is what you make of it. If you want to experience life without your devices, either turn them off or don’t take them. Has our grey nomad generation become so stupid that they can’t work that out?

Greg

This does not impact me at all … I still don’t have a mobile. I had one once many years ago, on the then standard two-year contract. I made two calls in all that time and probably received no more than 10. Total waste of money!

Pete

The obvious answer for those who prefer remoteness and to be away from ‘civilisation’ is simply to turn the mobile phone off … but don’t leave it at home. Not having the ability to phone for help in an emergency could have dire consequences.

Terry H

Not so long ago, my partner and I came across a collection of cars between Wilpena Pound and Quorn clustered on the roadside. Suspecting an accident we slowed only to be informed that this was a ‘hot spot’ for mobile phone reception. There was no sign of habitation, just a geographical phenomenon which was accepted by travellers of the day.

Jane & Brian M

I wonder whether Burke and Wills or Ludwig Leichardt would have chosen to have technology or not, had they the choice?

Ross H
Re: Tassie query (Letters: GNT 161). Our regular advice to those coming to Tassie is, if you’re coming for more than three weeks, bring your van. I think that’s around the break even point of fly/hire versus the Spirit of Tasmania costs. Not only that, you can bring all your personal gear. The best time to arrive is straight after the summer school holidays and leave just before Easter, when the nights cool. However, it’s also a very busy grey nomad period in our state so book the Spirit – both ways – early in your planning! Contrary to visitor expectations, you can access most of the spectacular coastal and highland campsites (some free) with your van.

Liz S

Re: Dump point survey (GNT: 160). If we have a choice between a town with a dump point and maybe a nicer town without a dump point, we will nearly always choose the one with the dump point. The same goes for caravan parks and free camps. The preferred choice is always the one with a dump point.

Mike P

Re: overcoming illness (Characters: GNT 161). I’ve just read the article about Glynn and Linda Brown and I hope everybody who reads it will be inspired to make the Big Lap if at all possible – and soon. My wife and I travelled all over Australia for 20 years, towing our little 12 foot Viscount Nipper caravan. My wife passed away almost two years ago very suddenly, from a massive heart attack (within four minutes) and, after a very gloomy few months our children talked me into converting my ‘disabled person’ Toyota HiAce into the (arguably) world’s smallest motorhome. I hope to be soon wandering through places like Erldunda N.T., which is self-proclaimed “The greatest little spot on Earth – five millions flies can’t be wrong!”

Allen M

I ‘hang my hat’ to these two people, what courage and I commend their ‘positive thinking’. I wish them all the best with health and happiness in 2018.

Joy W (Joybel)

Re: Caravan safety (GNT: 160). Van owners need to know and understand weights, but there are also many other things at play and a properly constructed caravan driving course would, in my opinion, be invaluable. Too many people think because they can drive a car and pull a box or boat trailer they can handle a caravan. That is certainly not always so.

Warren H

I agree there is an issue with the way some people load their vans, but speed is also a problem. I was an HR Multi Drop driver and now a nomad and will not tow at the speed some do.

Bazza

I 100% agree with comments in relation to vehicles that are sold to tow 3.5T but are much lighter than the van they are towing. I sold a vehicle because of that and went to the faithful 100 series instead of a dual cab.

Paul K

Re: Financially cautious nomad (Jaclyn & Heidi: GNT 161). Don’t be too tough on poor old Eric. He is probably scared stiff moneywise about how he and his wife will see out a long retirement. He hears all the horror stories about pensions falling, cost of living going up, park fees going through the roof etc. No wonder he is scared. Just lay off the poor fellow!

Alan P
How the West was lost

Grey nomads offer their verdict on the ups – and downs – of a WA trip

Places like Broome and Margaret River have priced themselves outside the budget of a lot of grey nomads. These towns show no signs of wanting our patronage with no focus on the needs of caravanners or the amount financial gains that are available. We have lived most of our lives in WA and, at the moment, we are in Queensland. We have noticed that Ravenshoe and Ipswich have a real focus on the financial rewards of local business owners when offering reasonably priced caravan parking. Ravenshoe Rail Museum business plan should be studied by all towns in WA, and probably Australia.  

Chris & Atty

WA is too expensive. Accommodation costs all over is too much, and fuel in remote areas is horrendous. WA is a little self-centric and seems to blame ‘over east’ for anything that does not make them happy – internet down, bank machines slow, food prices high etc. Free camping is not considered a priority to any council in WA.  

Sue B

Western Australia to us was 5 Star! We travelled with our little girl/dog which was never a problem. We found the people very welcoming wherever we pulled up for the day. We swung inland and out and experienced lovely countryside and small townships. Western Australia was just amazing.  

Don & Deb T

We love visiting indigenous art galleries, but so often they are closed, or have very limited opening times. The better ones have a dedicated manager who has the incentive to open up and will not get bored by the job after a few weeks. In WA, there are vast distances with limited or no access – provide more access tracks to the coast, to river banks, areas of bush, etc. and put a free camp at the end of each one – or encourage land owners to provide such facilities. There are large distances between towns in WA and so much interesting space in between. What you see from the highway is mostly the area that was easiest to bulldoze a road through. To attract more caravanners, provide the kind of facilities that are of interest to us and we will slow our sprint through the countryside. Broome to Port Hedland (600+ km) there is a huge length of beach – but how much easy caravan access is there? How many places to set up camp above the beach or several kilometres off the highway? So we did the trip in one day. Would have loved to take a week.  

Adrian H

During a visit to WA several years ago we found the biggest problem was the chip on the shoulder of a lot of the locals. They have got to understand that they are not the Centre of the Universe and are Australians first and foremost and then Sandgropers. A truly beautiful state to tour from top to bottom.  

Philip C

We are currently touring WA and, while the scenery, landscape and like attractions are spectacular, we have found our trip down the coast to be grossly overpriced. On a positive note, the trips in the inland areas have been excellent with plenty of free or low-cost camping, the provision of dump points has been great, people have been friendly and helpful, and fresh fruit and vegetables are ‘fresh’ and well-priced – better than the east coast. Given the area of the state and the population, WA has some of the best roads and communication in the country. Get your prices right and start catering for the self-contained traveller and tourism should increase.  

Rowland B

We made our last trip from North Coast of NSW to WA during the mining boom four years ago. We were treated as second-rate citizens, found everything was extremely costly, and free camps were rare. When we found a camp it was completely overrun with travellers, due to the shortage of other campsites, and the dump points were totally unusable. These are the main reasons we have vowed not to return.  

Max H

WA tourism operators have very long arms which can dig deep into our pockets. Simply shun the overpriced locales and find the hidden low priced, and often free, gems instead. It’s a great state.  

Chris T

We found WA to be unfriendly to grey nomads. Esperance was one of the worst examples. No free camping and the drinking water tap has to be accessed right over the dump point. How could the shire allow this, considering the health risk.  

John B

How does the state of NSW stack up?

In the next issue, we will be shining the spotlight on the state of New South Wales. Email us here to tell us what you like about travelling in it, and what you don’t. Do you prefer the coast or inland? Where are your favourite national parks? Is it comparatively cheap or expensive to travel in? How are the free camping options? Rest areas? Roads? We would love to hear your views.
How ensuite it is!

In a world where the relentless march of the ‘self-contained vehicles only’ policy is barring many budget travellers from using free or low-cost camping areas, it was only a matter of time before we saw the emergence of the ‘add-on’ bathroom concept.

The ingenious German-built Bath2Go can be fixed to the back of a campervan, offering an instant solution to the vehicle’s ensuite shortcomings. Inside, it looks just like the bathroom area that you find inside luxury motorhomes or large caravans … except it’s all contained in a detachable box. It weighs in at 120 kilograms and includes a toilet with a 15-litre tank, folding sink and shower. When you are on the road, the roof of the travelling amenities block can be folded down and, when you are parked and ready for bathroom business, it can be flipped up to increase head room to 1.95 metres.

The system comes complete with a fresh water tank, waste water tank, 12V pump and gas hot water heater for a luxury showering experience. The bathroom also has an LED light and mirror. A big advantage for those grey nomads who aren’t full-timers is that the Bath2Go can be left at home when not needed. The designers say it will take just three minutes to mount the necessary carrier to the vehicle, and another five minutes to secure the bathroom unit on to the carrier. They also say that having the bathroom out of the living cabin and in a completely separate area is a real plus … particularly if there is a leak!

With campground ‘inspectors’ increasingly claiming that PortaPottis and improvised water containing solutions will no longer pass muster as being sufficiently self-contained, is Bath2Go the answer to a budget traveller’s dreams? Well, the price tag of around US$8,300 would suggest not … but, then again, it’s still a lot cheaper than splashing out on a luxury motorhome. That price includes the Cate carrier that supports the bathroom box from below. The Cate carrier is currently available for a variety of vans, including Fiat Ducato, Ford Transit, Mercedes Sprinter and Vito, and VW Transporter models.

Can you see yourself splashing out on a mounted toilet to potentially bring more free campsites into your life?

Click to comment
Wauchope is an RV jewel on the New South Wales Mid-North Coast with exceedingly friendly locals, low-cost RV accommodation, delightful shops, healthcare and mechanical repairers for larger vehicles. Wauchope (pronounced War-hop) is set on the lush banks of the Hastings River and offers a rural escape just 20 minutes inland from Port Macquarie. Wauchope is home to Timbertown Heritage Park which harks back to the town's timber industry foundations. If you like history, walking trails, fishing, golfing or just relaxing you will love Wauchope.

The showground camping facilities (from $20 per night) are a gentle stroll to the town hospital, main street shops, a very peaceful library and the post office. Wauchope's main street includes dress shops, arts, crafts and galleries, op shops galore, a 'Department Store' eight hairdressers, three butchers, two bakeries and two supermarkets, plus many, many excellent cafes. You can now also camp from just $10 per night at Timbertown Heritage Park. It's possibly even more convenient with Timbertown shopping village, a Thai restaurant, cafe, pub, health services and a lovely nursery just across the road. Timbertown Heritage Park has been upgraded significantly in recent years, and it is a delightful place to stroll and explore. Weekends and school holidays are when the park is most vibrant with the most shows and experiences happening around these lively periods. During the week, you can still stroll and view the park as a static display which is also very enjoyable.

Day tripping around Wauchope, you will be spoiled for choice. Catch a bus or drive to nearby Port Macquarie to find major retail hubs and a magnificent coastal walk past beautiful beaches (including two that are dog-friendly) and the famous Sea Acres Rainforest Centre. Other sites nearby include Swans Crossing and Coopernook Forest Headquarters, both popular free camps. Wauchope also has two spacious and affordable RV campgrounds, along with a friendly small town feeling that is hard to beat. You may never want to leave!
Dear Jaclyn and Heidi,

I love Christmas on the road. I love the spontaneity of the festive season at a free camp and the unpredictability of not knowing who you will be sharing this very special day with. It's the one time of the year where I don't mind a bit of after-10pm noise, and the children's laughter and screaming reminds me of a happy time when my kids were all young. My problem is I just can't stand to see people not be as happy as I am. My husband, Tony, says I shouldn't always feel like I need to 'drag' solo travellers over for Happy Hour drinks, or organise communal activities to bring people together ... but it always works out really well and everyone has a great time. Tony says I should leave people alone to enjoy Christmas how they choose. Who's right?

Jenny

Oh, great. That's all a campsite full of people who have carefully planned to enjoy Christmas in their own way needs ... an overbearing, attention-seeking, 'look-at-me-I'm-so happy' wannabe Mrs Claus to deal with! What a load of jingle bells! Sure, strike up a conversation, offer a festive greeting, encourage Tony to do a 'Ho, Ho, Ho' for the kids ... but for Santa's sake, respect the Christmas boundaries. Whatever reason the various characters who will be at 'your' free campsite this coming Christmas choose to be there for, you can bet your bottom dollar it's not because they will have heard that 'Jenny the party organiser' is going to be camped up! You're running the risk of being seen as superior and patronising to others, Jenny. You're right when you say Christmas is a special time ... let's keep it that way!

Heidi

Good for you, Jenny. How wonderful that you are so caring of those around you, and that you have the strength of personality to 'get things going.' Every campsite needs someone who is ready, willing and able to make the first move and I have no doubt that your proactive approach has helped create some magical festive memories for those who might otherwise have kept themselves to themselves. Yes, it can be a gamble. Not everyone is looking for a 'Christmas with strangers' experience and you never know what memories the festive season may throw up for others. I am sure you are well aware that not everyone associates Christmas with such happy times as you do. As long as you are sensitive and not overly persistent, it is wonderful that you are able to spread Christmas cheer wherever you camp, Jenny.

Click to comment

Apple Isle boom

A tourism boom is leaving Tasmania well positioned for more economic growth in 2018 as a four-and-a-half-year upswing maintains its momentum. The latest 'MyState Tasmanian Economic Update' reveals visitor numbers increased 9% to 1.3 million in the year to June, while tourism spending jumped 10% to $2.3bn. “With the state also moving into the busiest tourism season of the year, this should provide a further boost to the economy and give it a strong start to 2018,” said MyState’s chief financial officer David Harradine.
VARIous LOCATIONS IN Australia Mystery Shop jobs available for Grey Nomad tourists in many regional areas in Australia. The Realise Group are a Mystery Shopping company based in Melbourne and we are looking for new shoppers to join our team. It's the perfect way to earn some extra money while on the move! Mystery Shoppers are provided with clear instructions, a detailed description of the place to be visited and the shopping list and are paid according to the time that it takes. assignments are completed 1 month in advance. We also have a range of projects in South East Queensland. BRISBANE, QLD

DARWIN, NT
Nomads needed urgently! Outer Darwin area, mango farm needs care-taking. Heaps of outdoor work, including those in the kitchen facilities, aublock block, plenty of power and water. There is nothing that needs to be done, we just want someone to be there in the premises. Immediate start till at least 7 Jan – longer if you would like. Click here.

SOUTH NANANGO, QLD
House sitters wanted longer term for major renovation. Period: 1/7/2018 to 30/9/2018 Location: Nanango. Mostly natural environment including approximately 130 kilometres from Toowoomba and a similar distance to Brisbane major shopping. No pets. Houseentails watering gardens, feeding ducks, picking sheep and donkey out into a large paddock and locking up at night. Maybe some mowing but being winter there is little growth. Ride on mower. Lastly to look after our very friendly blue cattle dog. Power and Water for Campervan and dump point in Nanango. House available for showers WTC etc and in need for accommodation. Retired couple preferred with references and police clearance. Click here.

INGHAM, QLD
House sitter(s) needed for hobby farm in mountain behind Ingham FN Qld. Jul – 4 weeks during January February – exact dates negotiable. Care for 2 horses and a few poultry; turning taps on/off to auto irrigation depending on rain, spraying biological (non toxic) insect control if needed. Orchard, veg and herbs all available. No smoking in the house. No cats allowed but OK if kept out of house and in the yard. House – Large furnished modern 3 bedroom home. No pets. mostly naturalistic grazing including rainforest. Vegetable, herb gardens, 2ha of mixed fruit orchard. Power, phone and internet all connected. Wood and electric oven and hot water, fireplace and oil heaters. Only Telstra mobile reception in the area. Click here.

WIDGEE, QLD
House sitter wanted for my lovely property 21 – 31 Dec. I have 4 dogs (2x small, 2x big) that are very friendly they will need to be fed and walked daily. Lovely property for walking and relaxing and taking in the great views. House yard may need a mow. Must be clean and tidy & non smokers. Click here.

INGHAM, QLD
Space for a caravan or motorhome to house-sit in small town out from Ingham, North Queensland. The plot offered will be on a suburban block with a house on it. We need someone to mow the lawn, do some general gardening. Some paid carpentry work if qualified is also available. Click here.

BRIGHT, VIC
We are looking for someone/couple with their own caravan/motorhome to caretake our property between 25th February and 28th March. Our house is set on an acre of land within the Bright Township and only 2k from the post office. The motor home/cara van can be situated under cover in the caravan port which has power and water. There will be access to the laundry and a toilet. The veg patch will need to be watered. Vegetables (kale and eaten) and fruit (you pick what you like) (you have bulk feeders and waterers but need to be checked). Eggs to collect (and eat). And the cat to be fed. The cat is very dog shy so unfortunately no animals. Click here.

BENDIGO, VIC
House sitter wanted for 32 acre property near Bendigo in central Vic, from mid December until approx March. Beautiful gardens and grounds. You will be looking for someone who wants somewhere to park their van while they live in the house. I'm reasonably relaxed to find a suitable sitter to help with odd jobs, feeding dogs, cat if I'm not home. Alternatively, someone who is happy to share a large 150 year old house with me. Click here.

ALBANY, WA
Carer Required for small south coastal farmlands in summer. Torbay is located between Albany and Denmark, WA. We are looking for a trained carer to look after our property on 5 acres situated close to the west side of Geraldton with a 15minute drive to the centre of the town. It is a quite location with treasures to be discovered. We would have access to power, rain, outside toilet facility and outdoor patio area. Duties would include minding our chooks (7) and dogs (2). – very friendly and general garden care. Click here.

HUMPY DOO, NT
Looking for a responsible caretakers in own caravan or 2 bedroom shed available for self catering. Also pets situated in Humpy Doo NT. Requiring care of our pets Kelpie (female desexed friendly), 3 Cats (all desexed) , chooks and Guinea fowl, which we are & 500m over the hill. Also looking for someone who is there keeping an eye on vehicles. A little Garden maintenance would be required, and care to access large swimming pool included. We are 7 minutes drive to shops and approx. 35 minutes to Darwin CBD. Click here.

VOLUNTEERING
EVANS HEAD, NSW
We are looking for some more volunteers to help out at the Great Eastern Fly In, held in Evans Head, Northern NSW on the weekend of Jan 6 and 7, 2018, as the annual aviation event attracts up to 10,000 visitors over the weekend and we need to get started setting up a few days earlier. Free sites (unpowered) at the airfield. We only do a few hours each day and we have jobs for everyone for one day.

CARRIeton, NSW
Volunteers needed to work at our community event. Carriton Rodeo, South Australia. Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2017. The volunteers required to manage the carpark or help on the weekend. (Event parking (Camping areas)) Free camping provided. Click here.

BRISBANE, QLD
Conservation volunteers wanted in the Brisbane area. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us with daily projects in South East Queensland. Click here.