

the Grey Nomad Times

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In this issue: •Win two campchairs •Mozzies on the march •A happy holiday with the hordes?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all



We would like to wish all GNT readers a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. This is also an opportunity for us to thank you for your support and encouragement since 'the Times' was launched back in August. This is now our 10th edition and we have been overwhelmed by the positive reaction to the publication and by the amount of fascinating correspondence we receive. We really enjoy all your emails and your feedback, and will strive to keep you informed and entertained as we enter 2012. It promises to be a very exciting year and we hope to be able to bring you more news, more competitions, more prizes, more discounts, more laughs and more campaigns in the weeks and months ahead. As usual, we will continue to monitor the stories affecting the grey nomad lifestyle – whether it be free camping crackdowns or the development of new space-age wonder rigs. And, as usual, we will continue to bring you stories



Enjoy the holidays ... wherever you are

about yourselves, the grey nomads and wannabe grey nomads who are at the forefront of a lifestyle revolution. We hope that you have all found a wonderful spot to spend the festive period and that you are happy to share your particular slice of paradise – for a few weeks at least – with non-grey nomad holidaymakers. Seeing working families snatch a week or two away before life's commitments claim their time again is a reminder of just how lucky we are to have the freedom we do to live the way we do. We would love to hear about your Christmas on the road ... where you stayed, who you

shared it with, and what you cooked. [Email us here](#) with your festive tales. And all that's left to say then is enjoy Issue 10 of the *Grey Nomad Times*. There is a great chance to win a pair of luxury Coleman camping chairs and most of your normal favourites are also here. The 'Quiz', 'Great Drives' and 'Gadgets of the Road' will return after the holiday period in Issue 12. Merry Christmas one and all.



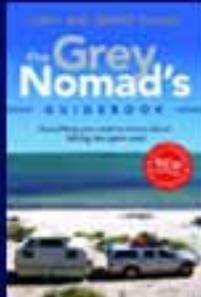
Survey highlights the value of free camps in Tassie

It's time for the Tassie tourism authorities to start getting nervous. The State Government is conducting a review of council-managed camping services and many fear it could spell the end of free and cut-price camping on the Apple Isle. With the cost of taking the rig across the Bass Strait already sky-high, we asked last week whether a free camping crackdown would make GNT readers consider a Tassie boycott.

A comprehensive majority of you, 63%, said missing out on the island's natural wonders was an option you would contemplate, while 37% would never do so. "The cost of travelling to Tasmania is obviously offset by the availability and condition of free camping while there," said Terry. "You can't have one without the other." And so said most of you. "The more we have to pay the less we can travel," wrote Max and Sue. "We will then be unable to contribute by supporting local businesses." The Tasmanian Government is currently considering its recommendations re council-managed camping.

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the Grey Nomad Times



Characters of the Road

Robyn and Ted's thirst for adventure keeps growing

Victorians Robyn and Ted (58 and 59) travel for up to five months at a time

What do you travel in?

With our thirst to go further afield, we have recently changed our Ford Territory for a 100 series diesel LandCruiser and we tow an Avan Rhys pop top. We find it light and easy to tow.



Robyn and Ted plan to head further afield in future trips

Any dislikes about travelling?

We do miss our children and grandchildren. Recently we have been using Skype to keep up with drawings, new clothes and pierced ears. After six weeks in the Flinders Ranges with extremely limited internet and no mobile service we were over the moon to have a conference call with our three children.



Robyn and Ted with friend

Have your plans changed?

After over 40,000kms of travel around this wonderful country and over 18 months living time in the van, we now feel we would like to be able to go to the less accessible areas that we have bypassed in our past adventures. We would like to upgrade the van in the future

to facilitate more free camping and to make long spells of travel in the van more comfortable.

On road hobbies?

Robyn has managed to fit in the sewing machine and beading supplies, and trying to catch that perfect photo also occupies many hours. Ted enjoys word puzzles and socialising with other campers. We have yet to catch that big fish we all strive for, but we keep trying. Bird watching and feeding is taking more of our time more recently. A couple of containers of different bird seeds are permanently housed in the van. By the time we headed home after our last stay in Alice Springs, we were well known for our hand feeding of wild Port Lincoln parrots in the park. Happy hour was preceded by bird feeding time at our site. It was a great ice breaker.

Scariest experience?

It would have to be climbing down into Tunnel Creek past a large brown snake sleeping at the side of the entrance. We pressed on as we thought we may not get the chance again ... it was worth the effort!

Favourite Place?

This is a hard one. Kings Canyon Rim Walk, swimming at Mataranka, Horizontal Waterfall, sunset on Cable Beach, snorkelling at Turquoise Bay? Hard to choose.

General advice:

If people are thinking of 'hitting the road', our suggestion would be to get out and do it. It doesn't matter what you sleep in at night. You are out there. We all start with basics and then slowly adapt. Don't wait. Tomorrow may never come!



Getting to know the birdlife

Website highlights

Mozzie misery

This week our website www.thegreynomads.com.au reported on the significant spike in people catching mosquito-borne diseases in Australia. Grey nomads are being warned to cover up and use repellent as a warm, wet winter looks set to deliver a buzzing nightmare to a campsite near you. In South Australia alone, 1164 cases of Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and Murray Valley encephalitis from last December to May.

[Read more here](#)

SURVEY

Are mosquitoes the worst 'pest' on the Big Lap?

Yes No

Other website must-reads:

Kicking up a stink
Rangers in toilet talks

Picture of happiness
Photo comp winner unveiled

Dog gone too
Rover ain't staying home

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the Grey Nomad Times

EMERGENCY!

PRESS CALLS ADD
5 FRIENDS 000

Call the ones you trust



Letters to the Editor **Share your thoughts with fellow nomads**

Dear Editor,
Re: Taking the Big Lap to make a difference (GNT: Issue 9)
Good on you. It's lovely to hear about someone trying to make a difference like yourself.
Jan

Dear Editor,
Re: e-reader article (GNT: Issue 9) I'm very happy with my apple iPad and iPhone for reading and when finances permit I love purchasing audio books from iTunes. These allow me to put the headphones on and listen to a good story.
Donna

Dear Editor,
My husband and I have e-readers and love reading without the weight and storage problems of books. When buying one I would also check battery life of e-reader.
Denise

Dear Editor,
Why did you omit to mention the 'Kindle' e-book reader? The Kindle is probably the most popular unit and is available for under \$100!
Bob

Dear Editor,
My husband has an e-reader and downloads many e-books but the most he has ever paid for one is \$6.99 ... most are bought for 99 cents. The more expensive books are the latest best sellers.
Sandra

Dear Editor,
Re: James Price gas hub story (GNT: Issue 9). I love the bush and the idea of being able to camp at this sort of place as much as anyone. But hey let's be serious about this. This area stands to make a lot of money for WA and Australia. Are

the campers willing or able to match that? I think not!
Macca (WA)

Dear Editor,
All the government bodies think about is money. Money doesn't buy the important things in life. One almost wishes truly bad things upon these idiots who make these decisions! Maybe then they will appreciate the wonder of nature and how it should be left as intended for all to enjoy!
Linda & John

Dear Editor,
Re: Tassie Great Drive article (GNT: Issue 9). We want to travel around Tasmania, preferably with our caravan. It is really going to cost us nearly a \$1,000 for the Strait costs? Does anyone have ideas on how we should plan this? Leave the caravan behind and take the wagon? Or is that too expensive too and would we be better to do a tour perhaps? Not what we want to do.
Pete & Sue

Dear Editor,
We have just spent the last 14 days touring all around Tassie and loved every minute off it. We stayed at caravan parks to freshen up and do laundry and then stayed at free camps which were the highlight of the trip. The walk to Wine Glass bay is a must, as is the Dove Lake walk at Cradle Mountain, The Wilderness Railway Strahan to Queenstown is just fantastic.
Sue & Steve

Dear Editor,
Re: Jaclyn and Heidi column (GNT: Issue 9). Maybe if Eric got off his tail and did some things for his wife, she would have an easier time and he

would be happier knowing things were getting done "correctly". Thanks for your efforts with this newsletter. Keep up the good work.
Bruce

Dear Editor,
It is amazing how after doing the housework etc for 40 years or more, all of a sudden we don't know how to do it correctly. After nearly 50 years of marriage the husband retires and he knows better how to cook, how to clean, even how to push the supermarket shopping trolley. My advice is to say: "I will watch and try to learn how you do it but it could take a while before I feel ready to take over again."
Jan

Dear Editor,
Eric, you would only stand beside me for a very short time telling me how to do this and that for so long then I would have a lovely relaxing holiday as YOU would be doing it all and I wouldn't care how long it took you to do things.
Jacs

Dear Editor,
Poor Eric. I have just read your letter about adjusting to your wife's way of doing things. Maybe if you gave her a bit of a hand it would not annoy you as much.
Marj

Dear Editor,
I think that Eric should offer to help his hard-working wife. I have always bogged in and helped my wife and she appreciates it. If he is not careful, he may spend the next 35 years on his own ... then he will have to be efficient.
John (Poppy Gus)

Dear Editor,
Goodness me Eric, your poor wife is so slow, it's a wonder you haven't faded away to a stick figure. I suggest you do the cooking, cleaning and all those chores that you know a better and quicker way of doing, and leave wifey to paint her nails, do her hair, watch TV, get a massage and relax knowing someone is doing a fantastic job of the mundane chores.
Val

Dear Editor,
Eric, why don't you give your wife a break and encourage her to sit and relax, read a book etc and you do these tedious chores for her? Sharing the load often releases tension and you may begin to appreciate each other's differences and get the best of both worlds; a quick and perfect meal from you one day, and a more leisurely meal from Helena the next. After all, retirement is all about getting what we both deserve after many years of servitude.
Lili

Dear Editor,
"In the short term, the best I can suggest is that you try not to watch her as she works. Perhaps you can read a book, watch TV, or take a walk while she cooks, washes up and makes your tea."
Heidi. Oh, how subtle, you clever woman. Wonder if Eric realises?
Doug

Dear Editor,
I think Helena should go on strike and let him do all the chores as it is obvious he can do them all much quicker and better.
Bruce & Chris

the Grey Nomad Times



Win our competition and take a seat

new competition

Happy hour tales could net you two Coleman campchairs

Grey nomads Are you sitting comfortably? Well, don't worry if you're not because we have teamed up with camping equipment kings, **Coleman**, to offer you the chance to win a pair of luxury campchairs. The king-size Cooler Arm Chair is one of Coleman's most popular chairs and could become a fixture at your happy hour gatherings for years to come. This deluxe padded model comes with extra wide arms for superior comfort. It features a large cooler bag with in-built cup holder, so you can settle in for the long haul with drinks at the ready for hours of 'me' time.



Sitting pretty ... win a pair of Coleman campchairs

It is weight rated to 130kg, with a steel frame and front leg cross supports for extra stability, so you can feel safe and secure in your comfort. Finally for added convenience it comes with a carry bag with straps.

Wow! And there are two of these grey nomad 'gotta-haves' on offer, courtesy of Coleman. All you have to do to put yourself in the box seat to win this sensational double delight prize is to write and tell us in 70 words or less about your

favourite happy hour moment. It could be the rainy time that 50 fellow campers tried to cram themselves in under your annexe, or the time a possum knocked your bottle of wine over, or the campfire conversation you will never forget. Make us laugh, make us cry or make us think but whichever you choose, make sure you **email us here** with your entries. A selection (including the winning entry) will be published in future editions of the Grey Nomad Times. Entries close at midnight (AEST) on January 22. The winner, as judged by the Editor, will be announced in the GNT Issue 12 on January 27.



ASK JACLYN and Heidi



Our experts solve your grey nomad etiquette dilemmas

Holiday Hell

Dear Jaclyn and Heidi,
I am so fed up with the holidays already ... and I don't know what to do about it. We have been travelling for two-and-a-half years and we simply dread the schools breaking up. How can we avoid the hordes of screaming kids, the loud sit-up-late parents, and the nightmare that using the amenities block or the laundry room has become? Last Christmas we were at what we thought was a tucked-away free camping spot in the south-west of WA but it was worse than the rowdiest van park ... and there wasn't even anyone to complain to. How does everyone else survive?

Betty

It's time to see the glass as half full rather than half empty,

Betty. This 'ordeal' as you call it is most people's long dreamed-of annual holiday. Of course, school holidays change the atmosphere at many camping areas and caravan parks but it is only for a short time and you should embrace the change. Have a chat to some of the new arrivals the next time you are queuing at the amenities block or the laundry. Once you are reminded of how hectic and stressful their life is most of the time, you will realise just how lucky you are! If nothing else, the holiday 'mayhem' should make you appreciate and enjoy the rest of the year's tranquility all the more.

Jaclyn

Don't get me started on school holidays, Betty. If this is supposed to be the season to be

merry, why don't they tell those irritating little ankle biters to stop leaving their bikes and scooters in front of the amenities blocks? And while they are at it, why don't they tell them to flush the toilet and to stop leaving old soap and half-used bottles of shampoo in the showers? It's not that hard to remember, is it? Having propped up the van park industry during the lean times, it seems grey nomads are cast to the bottom of the heap when free-spending 'holidaymakers' are in season. The only way this ordeal is going to end is when councils introduce 'over-50s only during the holidays' camping areas and van parks do the same. Just survive one day at a time, Betty.

Heidi

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