



In this issue:

• Space junk is crashing to earth

• Managing finances in tricky times

• Beautiful Bruny Island



There are more caravans on the road than ever before. PIC: Cizza

## 'We'll do better'

**A recent ACCC survey into the caravan industry has highlighted some issues**

The recent consumer watchdog report that lifted the lid on the poor standard of some RVs in this country looks set to spark some changes within the industry.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) survey showed 80% of respondents had experienced problems with their new caravan. And consumers also reported widespread guarantee failures, misrepresentations by caravan suppliers, and unexpected delays in the delivery and repair of RVs.

Stuart Lamont, the CEO of the Caravan Industry Association of Australia (CIAA), told the GNT that the organisation had a strong relationship with the ACCC and would undertake a number of educational initia-

tives based around the report to remind industry businesses of their legal obligations.

"We will also be introducing a number of tools to assist industry and give greater confidence to consumers – warranty factsheet, indexed Australian Consumer law guide for industry (similar to the existing RVSA Ready resource) – and launching a salespersons accreditation program which will improve understanding by salespersons through the purchasing process," he said.

However, Mr Lamont stressed the vast majority of industry businesses already understood their obligations, and said the examples reported by the ACCC represented only a small percentage of caravanners. "It is sad to hear there are individual circumstances when this expectation gap has not been met and the

ACCC report provides a timely reminder that, in these instances, we can do better," he told the GNT.

Mr Lamont said Australia constructed some of the toughest caravans in the world and consumers should continue to have confidence.

"At a time of much stress through the supply chain and Covid-19 absenteeism coupled with unprecedented demand, it is a source of frustration that the expectation gap on some purchases has been left short," he said. "This report should serve as a wakeup call for industry businesses to revisit their processes and make sure they are of the highest standard." The CIAA says consumers should do their research, ask lots of questions, and satisfy themselves there is a clear service network in the event that something does go wrong.

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## Silos are a siren for GNT readers

Grey nomads have a clear message for rural towns with old silos: 'If you paint it, we will come!'

A whopping 83% of respondents to our recent poll on the issue said they went out of their way to seek out silo art when they were on their travels.

Sue and John T were huge fans.

"There are some incredibly well done pieces of artwork to be seen," they said. "With the additional bonus of seeing places and roads that you would never have travelled down ... take your camera with you!"

Steve R was another who specifically plans 'silo art trail trips'.

"We have seen all Victoria and NSW ones and most of SA's," he said. "WA and Queensland are next on the list ... and we always spend money in each of the towns, even if it is just coffee and cake."

Jim K, however, was less impressed.

"A good place to stop is much more important to me than silo art," he said. "A sign saying: 'Camp at our showgrounds' is much more likely to get me to stop than any other inducement."

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## 'Our glass is half full'

**Being confined to a wheelchair has not stopped Lyn from living the dream**

Right from when they first met, Greg and Lyn O'Brien have shared a passion for caravanning and it's a passion that has endured ... despite some significant challenges.

Now in their late 60s, the couple bought a caravan soon after they got married and they made it their home as they worked their way around the southern half of the continent. However, less carefree days lay ahead.

While still in their 20s, the O'Briens were involved in a serious car accident that left Lyn a paraplegic, and confined her to a wheelchair.

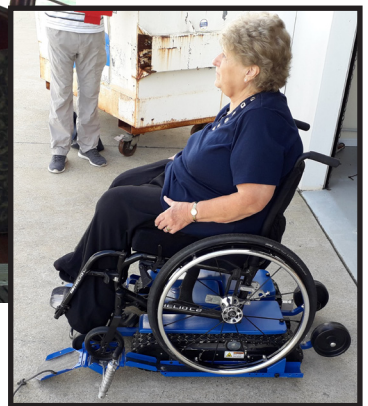
Not surprisingly, as they struggled to come to terms with their changed circumstances, the pair's vanning adventures were paused ... but, happily, not ended.

"About 10 years ago, the itch to once more go caravanning became really strong and so we began exploring the possibility of a wheelchair-bound person dealing with a van," said Greg. The first issue was finding a way for Lyn to get into the 'higher' 4WDs that are needed to tow a reasonably-sized van. Happily, she quickly found an electric hoist that hooks on the door hinge of the vehicle so no modifications are needed to the car.

Next was the van itself, and the couple had a specially-



Lyn and Greg enjoyed a train trip to Kuranda (above). The couple installed a ramp so Lynn could access the van (above right), and found other helpful gadgets (right).



modified and fully self-contained caravan built. "We have since travelled quite extensively and have just returned home after our fifth trip across the continent and back with this van ... one of those a complete Lap," said Greg. "It has enabled Lyn to see places that she would have never been able to see due to the severe lack of suitable disabled accommodation in the more remote areas." In the more inaccessible locations where they can't take their van, the pair often leave it behind and take day trips in their 4WD to difficult-to-access spots like the Bungle Bungles.

"There are hydraulic hoists

for van access but we have opted for a simple ramp system which is easy to repair if caught out in remote areas," said Greg. "For us, caravan parks are generally the most convenient but it doesn't stop us from free camping if that is the best option at the time." Greg and Lyn say many places are now making it much easier for wheelchairs, including some that have ramped walkways down to the cliffs. Things are inevitably more challenging – and sometimes downright impossible – in the most remote areas, but Greg stresses many tour operators go above and beyond to help, and have gone so far as to literally 'manhandle' Lyn and

her chair onto a boat so she can enjoy a cruise.

"We try to go where we can, and not be too disappointed if we can't," he said. "There are more than enough experiences to enjoy."

Greg and Lyn's longer trips usually last about three months, with the shorter ones lasting 2-3 weeks ... and they are currently busily plotting two separate adventures before the end of this year.

"I hope that our adventures might inspire others, particularly those with a disability, to get out there and have a go at this marvellous means of seeing our country," said Greg. "They don't have to miss out."

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Australia's Silver City will turn gold with the boldest of glam as The Broken Heel Festival returns. 2022 marks the 28th Anniversary of the cinematic release of 'The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert'. There are 3-plus days & nights filled with entertainment by headline performances. Camping & caravan sites from \$25/night at racecourse (4 km from festival).

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# Watch this space

## Space junk from SpaceX has landed in the Snowy Mountains in NSW

The crash landing of another lot of space junk in Outback Australia has triggered vivid memories of the day Skylab crashed to Earth in the late 70s ... and sparked great excitement amongst grey nomad meteorite hunters.

The Australian Space Agency has confirmed that several pieces of debris found recently in the NSW Snowy Mountains belong to Elon Musk's SpaceX Dragon spacecraft which was launched in November, 2020.

One piece of the junk, estimated to be about three metres long, was embedded deep in the ground.

Nonetheless, senior director of the SpaceX Human Spaceflight Program, Benjamin Reed, said the incident had fallen within expectations.

"The important news is, of course, there was no injury or damage," he said.

However, some space enthusiasts – like grey nomad Bill Ricketts – are not reassured. "If that millionaire does not



SpaceX is dropping junk to earth (left);  
PIC: Pexels/SpaceX) Bill (above) searches for meteorites as he travels

learn from this potential catastrophe, then someone will get killed and lots of damage will occur," Bill said. "His ego trip is a danger to Earth."

Bill has just returned from his latest caravanning adventure, where he studied the night sky in the evenings, and hunted for meteorites in the days.

Enthusiasts like Bill have, of course, been in their element in recent week thanks to the Perseid meteor shower — one of the strongest annual meteor showers — which was visible

from July 14 until September 1. When a lump of space rock – or meteoroid – survives a trip through Earth's atmosphere and hits the ground, it's then called a meteorite. On average, one falls to Earth every day, and there are a few hardy souls, like Bill, who are 'driven' to seek them out.

Of course, spacecraft junk is a little less common, which makes the arrival of SpaceX remnants all the more startling. Back in 1979, when Elon Musk was just an innocent eight-

year-old, it was the crash landing of parts of the US space station, Skylab, which was making headlines.

Incredibly, no one was injured when the 77-tonne Skylab space station broke up, with parts of it scattered across remote WA, and larger pieces falling into the sea.

There are still several museums in WA containing pieces of Skylab, including at the Balladonia Roadhouse on the Nullarbor.

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# Taking stock in uncertain times

**Inflation, rising interest rates and the pandemic are impacting many budgets**

As Australia navigates its way through a period of economic turmoil, many grey nomads are anxiously doing their sums and assessing the potential impact on their 'living-the-dream' lifestyle.

Of course, there is no such thing as a 'typical' grey nomad. All have their own unique set of financial circumstances. But, whether they are self-funded retirees or on a full pension, mortgage-free house owners or 'my-van-is-my home' full-time travellers, all are affected one way or another by rising inflation, higher interest rates, and by the sheer uncertainty of what lies ahead.

Many older Australians are still scarred by their experiences back in the '80s when home loan rates hit a high of 17%. And, while they are also in the 'let's-enjoy-it-while-we-can' stage of life, the sums do still have to add up.

The prices of food, power, and petrol have surged in recent months. In June, the inflation rate rose to 6.1%, its highest level in 21 years.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) recently raised the country's cash rate for the fourth month in a row ... and



**Careful planning is key to avoiding financial failure**

PIC: Pexels

they're probably not finished yet. That can, of course, be good for some investors, but it can also affect the performance of super funds.

National Seniors Australia says that grey nomads, especially self-funded retirees, need to get good advice and have a solid financial plan.

The organisation's General Manager, Chris Grice, says grey nomads should be aware that what is available in government support can change over time due to changes in income and / or assets.

"At a point in time, a retiree may not have been entitled to government support but, with changes in the economy flowing through to investment incomes, this can change," he said.

Mr Grice says many nomads

will be feeling the pinch particularly strongly due to the rising costs of vehicle repairs and fuel.

And the after-shocks of the pandemic are still being felt. "We are seeing many of the towns and centres that were low cost to stay in temporarily, or for extended periods, by grey nomads now either more expensive or simply unaffordable for this cohort as new tree change or sea change permanents from the city have moved into town," said Mr Grice. "We're also seeing a squeeze on cheaper caravan park site accommodation due to rising land rates costs incurred by the park owners."

• *Is the economic situation affecting your travel plans?*

[Click to comment](#)

## Nomads in Brief



### Vintage van theft

A pink-and-white antique caravan (pictured above) has been stolen from the roadside of Queensland's Bruce Highway, about 40 kilometres north of Gin Gin. The offenders apparently pulled up, attached the van to their vehicle, and simply drove off with it in tow. The vehicle has Victoria registration C25336.

### Tree crash

A utility towing a caravan has crashed near Beechworth in Victoria. The vehicle appeared to have veered off the road, collided with a tree, and then hit a second tree head-on. A woman, 21, was taken to hospital for observation, while a man, 40, and a boy, 17, were treated at the scene.

### Bear attack

A polar bear has been killed after it attacked and injured a woman at a campsite in Norway's remote Arctic Svalbard Islands. The French tourist suffered injuries to her arm. She had been part of a tour group camping at Sveasletta in the Svalbard archipelago, 800 kilometres from the Norwegian mainland.



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## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts  
with fellow nomads

Re: **What are the odds?**

(GNT: 279) My wife and I were travelling Tassie in our '76 Kombi camper and pulled up for the night at a farm campground in the middle of nowhere. The campground offered a home-cooked meal in the main house as an option and, after a day on the road, we thought we'd treat ourselves. We walked over to the front door and were seated by the fire when a couple we'd set up near walked in. They smiled as they approached, so we asked if they'd like to join us. The chat turned to road trips and where our favourite destinations were. We said the NSW South Coast. It turns out that they live next door to one of my mates at Dolphin Point. Small world, hey! We enjoyed a wonderful evening. Good times ... and proof that it is always a good thing to be polite and respectful, as you never know what connections people have!

**Mark S**

We arrived earlier than booked to El Questro in 2019. We were advised we couldn't get our booked site so were given another location. The next day, a van pulled in beside us and we started chatting. We grew up in the same street in Melbourne back in the '60s and '70s and knew each other's family. We've lived in Queensland

since 1993 and were amazed to bump into this family from our childhood.

**Vicki J**

When we arrived in Broome, the town was full and we were redirected to the caravan park at the Roebuck Roadhouse some 30 kilometres away. It was extremely hot so my wife and I headed to the swimming

pool where we heard a man saying he was a resident of Kimba, a small town 600km west of Adelaide. I grew up there as a child. As I was about to introduce myself, he looked at me with amazement and said "I know you. You are John, and you have a twin brother and, as I recall, three sisters". To cut a long story short, we hadn't seen

each other since I was eleven. I was now 67. Fifth-six years on and though having made quite a few adjustments to my appearance along the way, he was able to recognise me and ultimately my whole family. I stand amazed to this day. We parted agreeing to catch up when passing through Kimba again.

**John P**



While caravan accidents today make headlines, they certainly aren't a new development, as this old photo proves. Records show the pictured caravan mishap took place near Peats Ferry north of Sydney in New South Wales but, unfortunately, the date of the incident is not shown ... nor is how long it took to retrieve the van!

PIC: State Library Victoria

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## Letters to the Editor

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**Re: Caravan parks V free camping.** I have stayed in both free parks and caravan parks. I prefer to pay for well-kept facilities, the convenience of power, and the security. I use power to inflate my bed and run the car fridge, and also often travel alone. I don't own a motorhome and no longer own a caravan. I usually just put up a tent. My only gripe with caravan parks is that, in most places, the powered sites have concrete pads and are only designed for van users. The tent sites are often quite a distance from amenities and/or beside busy roads. I have found that, if you look around and are off the beaten track, you will be able to find quiet, neat and budget-priced caravan parks which are a joy to stay in.

Susan C

We have travelled Australia and, in more recent times, most caravan parks are quite full both in peak and non-peak periods. We have met many beautiful people whilst free camping and have found that, when staying in caravan parks, not so many people take the time to talk to each other. Not everyone is in a position to pay big dollars for campsites 24/7.

Karen P

I loved my remote bush

camping. It afforded me the rare opportunity to get grounded. Sure, nature has her predators but good old common sense tells you not to throw caution to the wind. Respect ... that's what it's about. A healthy respect for nature and her intricacies. Human intervention is a whole different issue, though. So, if you camp up in an area with undesirable 'attributes',

weigh it up. Is it worth the risk? Move on or avoid/avert antagonism however instinct tells you.

Margaret R

**Re: Reversing the caravan.** Big tip. Do not engage a bystander to help! Use your own people. They know what you require of them.

Alan J

The best tip I ever got for

reversing the van is to look at the position of the bottom of the steering wheel. When wanting the rear of the caravan to go to the left, turn the bottom of the steering wheel to the left, and if you want the caravan rear to go to the right, turn the bottom of the steering wheel to the right. Very easy to remember.

Mal C



PIC: Snowy Monaro Regional Council

### Where is it?

People who take the steep hike up to this lookout are rewarded with sweeping views as well as a close-up look at this sculpture created by local artist, the late Chris Graham. Do you know where this is? **Email answer here.** The first correct answer drawn out of the hat will win two Grey Nomad stickers. The mystery location in GNT 279 was Theodore, Qld. The winner was Val Larsen



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# the Grey Nomad Times



## Letters to the Editor

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### SmartBar Photo of the Month

Congratulations to Max Bowyer for sending in this photo of a secluded, off-the-grid, free camping overnight area near Spalding, South Australia.

"Fortunately, we arrived just before sunset affording the opportunity to capture this shot," Max said. "It was so peaceful and relaxing and to have just happened upon this because the day was getting long, was one of those wow moments, where we said 'This'll do!'"

The photo wins this month's SmartBar Photo of the Month competition.

Max has won a \$50 ARB voucher, courtesy of competition sponsor, **SmartBar.**



### Get the picture

To enter next month's competition, email your original entry to [photo@thegreynomads.com.au](mailto:photo@thegreynomads.com.au) and supply brief details about where and when the pic was taken. **Click here** for terms and conditions.

Re: **Roadside litter.** I have just been given - from the Derby WA Visitor Centre - a Main Roads Outback Pack provided by Keep Australia Beautiful and Bin It. It includes a large woven bag, an orange plastic bag, and long handled tongs. The accompanying brochure suggests using the pack to ensure there is less litter on our roadsides. I know there are a lot out there already doing

this, but maybe other travellers in WA can go to their Visitor Centres and actually ask for these packs. That would be a great boost for Main Roads to know we were a grey army on the road prepared to make a difference.

**Gillian K**

Re: **Cool gadgets.** The best investments we have ever made for free camping are; a diesel heater; and a 12V (Solar) ceil-

ing fan from Bunnings (\$60). We are currently four months into our trip and have had all sorts of hot and cold conditions, and we've been comfy all the time.

**Dave M**

I have been travelling for 12 years throughout Australia and have noticed more and more 40-year-old couples with two or three kids in rigs worth \$200,000 with every toy you

can think of. And I've found most to be very unfriendly with 'me, me, me, me' attitudes. Could someone in grey nomad land tell me how they can afford this lifestyle?

**Kay M**

Re: **Bony Mountain Folk Festival** (GNT: 279). I have been to the festival many times and I'm going this year, too. Great fun.

**Jytte C**

## IMMERSE YOURSELF IN MAGICAL LANDSCAPES.

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# the Grey Nomad Times



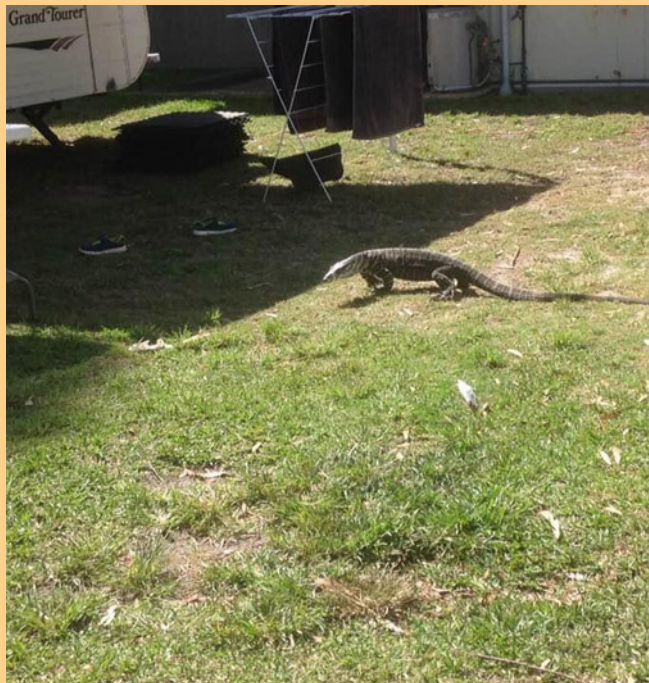
## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts  
with fellow nomads

### Invasion

Re: **Wildlife 'invaders'** (GNT: 279). We were staying at Hawks Nest in New South Wales. We had had a lazy morning and only left the caravan park in the early afternoon for a stroll. As we were leaving, we spotted about a dozen very large goannas (*pictured*) wandering through the camp, under awnings and caravans ... and even watched one enter a tent. That same night, my husband spotted a dingo on his way to the bathroom. Admittedly the office warns about dingoes stealing shoes but, after several stays, it was our first sighting.

Ruth Graf



Re: **Wildlife invaders** (GNT: 279). A few years back I was pet sitting out of Dorrig in NSW. I had left my door open while working at my computer. About midnight, I noticed a movement out of the corner of my eye. A quoll had popped in to check things out. It gave me a stare before backing out.

Howard J

On the way back from the Simpson desert trip in 2018, we camped overnight at Algebuckina Bridge which is a great spot. However, at about 2am my mate Harold had a call of nature and trundled off into the darkness, only to be followed by a swarm of mosquitoes! I told him to get

in the Ute to get rid of them. But then, they turned on me in my swag and were so ferocious they were actually biting through the canvas. Later, Harold's wife counted over 120 bites on his bottom!

Philip F

At Porcupine Gorge near Hughenden at dusk, the bet-tongs come out of the long grass surrounding the camp-sites looking for scraps.

Sandy T

When camping on the Murray River near Wentworth, we had a large old resident goanna who frequented our site. One day he stuck his head in my husband Lionel's bucket of

fishing gear and made off with a XXXX can in his favourite stubby holder. Up the tree he went, with Lionel after him, and dropped it into his hole. Later we heard crunching as Lionel mourned his stubby holder.

Lyn Mc

I have lived at Dundee since 1990 and there has been a few crocs come to visit. I've seen one at the fuel bowser one morning; another about to go in the park for a dip in the old pond; another recently under the beautiful leaf tree; and the odd couple on the boat ramp or near it. They are there! Be croc aware, people.

Jo D

### Join us!

The Grey Nomads is very happy to announce that it has extended its 'Earlybird' membership offer.

GNT readers taking out an annual Grey Nomads membership before September 1 will pay just \$49. After that date, the membership price will increase to \$59.

In the coming weeks, we will be rolling out an exciting second phase of member-only benefits, discounts, and competitions to add to those currently on offer.

Stand by for details!

This membership initiative is something 'extra'. Joining is in no way necessary for any reader to enjoy and comment on the stories on the website, use the forum, receive the GNT, or hear our podcasts. However, as well as showing their support for what we do, GN Members will receive:

- A range of discounts from select businesses.
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- Access to exclusive 'Premium content', including in-depth special reports.
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We hope you will consider joining us as we strive to bring even more benefits to members of the expanding grey nomad family. Details of the membership offer can be [found here](#).

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## Picture puzzle

Last week: Somewhere in this field, you'll find a badly spelt South Australian town, much loved by grey nomads.



Answer:  
Quorn

Our winner was:  
Ray Epmindiggers

## Win grey nomad stickers!



PIC CLUE: Sadly, a lot of grey nomads decide they just have to pick this up.

Email us the solution to the puzzle. Winner announced in Issue 281.



## It's a wacky world

A lightning strike has killed one camper and injured another in the US state of Wyoming. The incident happened in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. John Murphy, 22, died of cardiac arrest as a result of the lightning strike. The other injured camper was airlifted to hospital and later released.



## Quiz corner

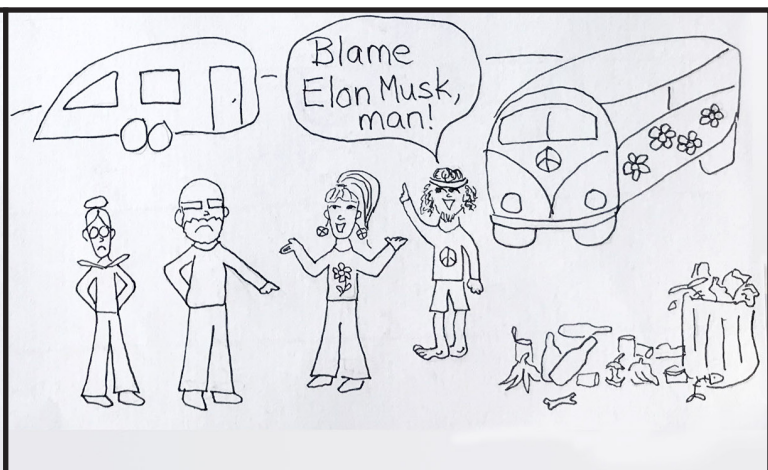
- Where have grey nomads just left when they see the WA town of Kramner in the rear-view mirror?
- Tasmania's King Island was named:
  - In 1801 for Philip Gidley King, the then governor of New South Wales.
  - After the "Tompkins King" apple which was originally planted here by Captain William Bligh, of Mutiny on the Bounty fame, in 1786.
  - After the King Emperor penguins that were discovered here by French explorer, Francois Mitterand, in 1770. King Emperors can now only be found in the Antarctic.
- Jewel Hockey (anagram). A professional horse-rider might get into a spin on this vital caravan accessory.
- I am driving directly between the NSW towns of Hay and Wilcannia. Which highway will I spend most of my time on?
- Shortest road distance between Tamworth in NSW and Townsville in Queensland?
  - 1050 km
  - 1492 km
  - 1682 km



(answers on page 12)



## The Grey Area



## Start from scratch

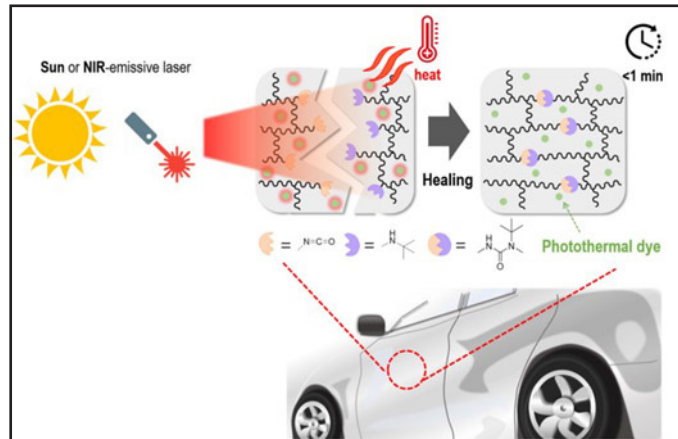


With campsites getting increasingly crowded, more grey nomads are choosing to get off the beaten track and onto the unbeaten, potholed, corrugated, and sometimes bushy track.

And that can only mean one thing ... a scratched, scraped, and sorry-looking rig. But off-road adventurers who are tired of looking at their former pride and joy looking significantly the worse for wear and don't have the budget for endless respray jobs now have a glimmer of hope.

A team of researchers in South Korea have developed a transparent protective coating that 'self-heals' scratches in 30 minutes when exposed to sunlight.

The material is remarkable in that it has achieved the 'impossible dream' of offering high durability at the same time as being transparent and strong 'self-healing' properties. The team from the Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology tested their brainchild by coating a laboratory-scale model using a spray-coating machine. When the model car was exposed to midday sunlight for about 30 minutes, the scratch completely disappeared and the



**Self-healing mechanism of eco-friendly protective coating material for vehicles (above).** PIC: Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology (KRICT)

**Scratches are often costly to fix (left)**

surface of the coating material was restored.

The 'magic' is explained like this. When sunlight is absorbed by the developed material, the surface temperature rises as light energy is converted into thermal energy. The increased surface temperature breaks apart the chemical bonds in the polymer structure and they then reform again, effectively self-healing a surface scratch.

Although self-healing functions using photothermal dyes have been studied, previous studies were mainly based on inorganic materials that are difficult to apply industrially as the coating material should be transparent. In addition,

inorganic materials require a large amount of light energy to produce a photothermal effect. The Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology says that the material's transparency and its affordability were its other big advantages. "The developed technology is a platform technology that synthesises self-healing coating materials using both inexpensive commercial polymer materials and photothermal dyes," said the Institute's Dr Jin Chul Kim. "It is expected to be widely used not only in automotive clearcoats but also in various applications."

• Do you get scratches 'fixed' ... or just learn to live with them?

[Click to comment](#)

### Survey

#### Pot luck

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has said the chance of La Niña forming in the coming months is now 70% – raising the prospect of yet more wet weather.

And, apart from missing the sunshine and the freedom to linger carefree outside, that can signal only one thing for grey nomads ... more potholes!

Local authorities around the country are still struggling to catch up with a massive backlog of repairs to damaged roads, and more heavy rain is likely to simply exacerbate the ongoing maintenance problems.

For grey nomads and other travellers, that almost inevitably means more punctures, more vehicle damage ... and more expense.

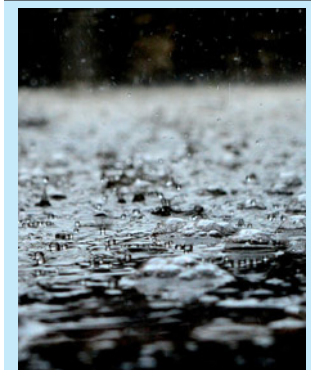
But how widespread is the problem?

#### POLL

**Have you suffered tyre or vehicle damage due to potholes in the past year?**

☐ YES

☐ NO



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# The beauty of Bruny



great  
places

After weeks or months exploring 'mainland' Tasmania's magnificent wilderness areas, some grey nomads are still hungry for more and that's when, for them, all ferries lead to Bruny Island.

In recent years, this 362-square-kilometre island located off the Apple Isle's south-eastern coast has boomed as a traveller destination ... and it's easy to see why. Its two distinct land masses, North Bruny and South Bruny, are joined by a long, narrow, sandy isthmus commonly known as 'The Neck'. Although the entire island is only about 50 kilometres long, there is an enormous amount of variety and points of interest packed into it.

There are superb sandy beaches, eucalyptus forests, rich farmlands, craggy cliffs, and incredible rock formations, as well as stunning national parks, historic sites, an iconic lighthouse, and a stack of beautiful campsites. This is also a wildlife and birdlife enthusiast's paradise and is home to fur seals, fairy penguins, albatross, wedge tailed eagles, white wallabies and many more.

The only way onto the island is by ferry across the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The terminal on the 'Tassie mainland' is located at Kettering about 33 kilometres from Hobart. The crossing to the western side of North Bruny Island at Roberts Point only takes about 20 minutes. A return trip with a caravan in tow will generally cost around \$100 or less, depending on overall length, and the time of the year.



**The Mars Arch (above) can be found on Bruny Island's Cape Queen Elizabeth Track.** PIC: Tourism Tasmania / Jess Bonde.

**The Aurora Australis over the iconic Cape Bruny Lighthouse (left).** PIC: Tourism Tasmania / Luke Tscharko

There are several attractive settlements on the island including the holiday village of Dennes Point in the north, and Allonah, Adventure Bay, and Lunawanna in the south. The Neck connecting north and south is an important habitat for native wildlife, and there are boardwalks and platforms allowing visitors to view short-tailed shearwaters and fairy penguins. Here also is the Truganini Lookout which offers stunning 360-degree views. Be warned, you'll have to climb 279 timber steps to get there to enjoy the vista though.

There's a great camping spot at The Neck, and there are many others throughout the island including popular ones at Cloudy Bay and Jetty Beach within the South Bruny National Park. There's also a well-thought of 'Camping at

Bruny Island' private camping spot near Cloudy Bay, and the Captain Cook Caravan Park at Adventure Bay is also extremely popular.

While the island does have unsealed sections of road and tracks, much of the network is of a high standard and is well suited for towing.

A must-visit for grey nomads is Cape Bruny Lighthouse in the south, which was built by convicts and opened in 1838 following a spate of shipwrecks in the preceding years. The fourth lighthouse built in Australia, it was famed as the longest continuously manned lighthouse in the country until it was automated in 1993. Other points of interest include the well-preserved late 19th-century tramway built for transporting timber which runs from Adventure Bay. Also at Adventure Bay the Bligh

Museum of Pacific Exploration; and memorials to Captain Tobias Furneaux, the first European to explore Adventure Bay in 1773, and Captain James Cook who stopped here in the Resolution in 1777.

The tourism authorities here have worked hard to build the island's reputation as a great destination for foodies, and a variety of artisan cheese, oysters, seafood, berries, fudge, wine, whisky, gin, and beer are said to be available at the farmgate and cellar doors. However, it is always the truly stunning scenery that will be the star attraction and there are, as you would expect, a huge variety of bushwalking trails to explore and enjoy. If you thought the Tassie 'mainland' packed a lot of interest into a small area, wait until you visit Bruny Island!

**Click to comment**

# the Grey Nomad Times



**ASK JACLYN  
and Heidi**



**Our experts solve your grey  
nomad etiquette dilemmas**

## Schedule causes alarm

**Dear Jaclyn and Heidi,**  
*Three months into 'living the dream' I'm being driven absolutely bonkers by my 'everything has to run on schedule' husband, James. He's always been a bit of stickler for discipline and structure but I really thought he'd loosen up a little when we hit the road ... more fool me. He insists on setting the alarm clock at 6am every day, then it's off to the amenities for a tooth brush and shower, breakfast by 7.15am, and 'day planning' from 7.30am until 8am. Even Happy Hour is on the schedule so it feels like one of the chores we have to complete rather than the relaxed, spontaneous time I had imagined ... and he only pencils it in for half an hour anyway! James was quite senior in his job so I guess organisation was important, but how can I get him to chill a bit?*

**Molly**

Give him time, Molly. I know three months seems like a long time but, in the greater scheme of de-compressing after a lifetime of work and discipline, it's not long at all. Obviously talk to James about it, but I've no doubt that you will slowly see his 'standards' slip. That alarm might soon be set for 7am, then 7.30am, and eventually abandoned altogether. Fingers crossed, anyway. Has he abandoned his button-down shirt and tie for a T-shirt yet, or his ironed trousers for shorts? They're normally the first things to go, and the alarm clock soon after. It really isn't easy letting go of, or even loosening your grip on, the structure that gave your life purpose and meaning, but taking the Big Lap is the quickest way I know to persuade established career people to 'chill'. Don't be too hard on him, Molly. He'll get there!

**Jaclyn**

Alarm clock! Designated 'planning time'! Over-regulated Happy Hours! Wow, Molly! It's time to get this Big Lap party started and the best way to do that is to get rid of that silly alarm clock. Wake up to the birds, or the sound of those irritating idiots in the next site packing up at Silly-O-Clock, but don't self-sabotage by waking up to an alarm. I suspect that, if you can get rid of the clock, the rest of James's irritating 'I'm-acting-like-I'm-still-at-work' habits will fall like a house of cards. Working people are conditioned to react to certain stimuli. Take the first one out and, after a bit of re-adjusting, James will start to do what he and you enjoy when you want to, rather than invent artificial reasons to do things at certain times. Take a hammer to that clock and release James from its wicked spell!

**Heidi**

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Fuel: Diesel. Transmission: Manual.  
Seating: Two  
History: Bought 2018 to circumnavigate Australia. Unused for past two years as owners locked down overseas. Repairs this year. Reason for selling: Long adventures completed.  
Email: [wordstars@hotmail.com](mailto:wordstars@hotmail.com)



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## CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE

We are seeking expressions of interest for the sale of our 2 adjoining properties in the town of Forsyth in central base of Cape York. We have enjoyed our time in this "getaway from crowds and winter weather" paradise but health reasons have now forced us to leave. Forsyth is ideally positioned for access to the Agate Creek Gemfields and for those interested in gold detecting around the local district. Two blocks in Fourth St. with a total area of 4,046 M2 (lots 142 & 143) (lot 143 vacant). Main shed built to Cat 2 cyclone rating 60x30 feet. Living area within shed is air conditioned. 2 of poly water tanks each holding 22,500lts. 2 large galvanised water tanks. Established gardens on water dripper systems. This property is ideal for those looking for a winter get away with interests as listed. Phone Bruce on 0402 227 051.



## HELP WANTED

### HUNTER VALLEY, NSW

Do you love Donkeys? Looking for an energetic couple or single to set up on our 300 acre property in their self contained caravan/RV, for up to a month, situated at The Good Samaritan Donkey Sanctuary. We are located in The beautiful Hunter Valley, NSW (in the Dungog Region) and in return for power, water, toilet and shower facilities (including a washing machine), AND fresh country air, you would be asked to help us, for about a couple of hours a day, cleaning stables, gardening, feeding/watering animals and general maintenance and upkeep of surrounds, on our lovely property. The rest of the time is yours to enjoy, relax and explore the area. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### MATARANKA, NT

Kitchen Hand & Housekeeping required. Looking for either 2 x single people or 2 couples that can give us a hand with housekeeping duties for our motel rooms and also washing dishes at the restaurant at night (3 to 4 hrs at night). The Territory manor motel and Caravan park situated at 51 Martin Road Mataranka, is only a short 2.3km drive away from the natural thermal pool of Bitter Springs. The Territory Manor has fully licensed restaurant on site, swimming pool, camp kitchen and laundry facilities, not to mention a huge amount of natural green space, with abundant wildlife and birdlife. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### MATARANKA, NT

Relief Receptionist required for motel & caravan park. Looking for a couple of weeks relief work in reception for Motel and caravan park in Mataranka. If you are familiar with Newbooks reservation system that would be a huge advantage. Reception hours are from 11am to 5pm. Need someone with great phone skills, a happy attitude to life and loves being in the NT. Only 2.3km away from the natural thermal pool of Bitter Springs it is a great place to hang for a couple of weeks. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

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\*\*\*

### NORTHWEST SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Caretaker Couple wanted for pastoral sheep property 330 kms north west of Port Augusta. Duties include maintaining house and garden and water runs. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### COFFS HARBOUR HINTERLAND, NSW

Christmas tree farm help wanted. Looking for enthusiastic individual, couple or families to help us on the farm. Breath-taking mountain and valley vista views here in the Coffs Hinterlands at our farm covering 115 private acres (46.41 ha) approximately. Enjoy pool, tennis court, and a pretty creek, with the bonus of direct access to the Orara National Forest. The undulating land is a mixture of lush paddocks, Christmas tree growing & natural bush land. We can set you up with power, and access to shower and toilet in the house. Or we can provide accommodation in the house too. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### TOWNSVILLE, QLD

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\*\*\*

### TRANGIE, NSW

We are looking for an experienced couple or individual to caretake Tandara Caravan Park at Trangie. The position would be for a minimum of one month with an option to extend. The park is on 2 acres and has 12 self contained cabins which cater mainly for casual workers in the cotton and grain industries and occasional overnight vans. You would need to live on site either in your own van or in the 2 bedroom manger's house. Duties would include cleaning the pool and amenities block, maintaining the lawns and attending to visitors at reception. Your own ABN and liability insurance would be preferable. Renumeration negotiable. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### ROSEBROOK, VIC

We are seeking a maintenance person with their own van/RV (fully self contained) to help out with a variety of maintenance tasks (eg. painting, high pressure water cleaning, timber oiling, planting trees and gardening) for 4-6 weeks, approx 16-20 hours per week. Starting in September. The role of the maintenance person is to assist us to get ready for Spring when we open our sustainable home and property to the public. We are an award winning property on six acres just outside of Port Fairy in South West Victoria. Nature's Way Eco Sanctuary is fully off grid and demonstrates a more self sufficient way of living. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### QUEANBEYAN, NSW

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\*\*\*

### LOBETHAL, SA

We have a 100 acre property near Lobethal in the Adelaide Hills. We offer 1-3 week stay (Or negotiable) including power and water in exchange for 2.5 hrs a day help around the farm doing anything from gardening/property maintenance/handyman work/ animal feeding and other outdoor chores. So if you are on a budget it's great value (no caravan park fees). Applicant must have own shower and toilet facility in caravan and we have ample room for large van in a beautiful garden setting. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### BRISBANE, QLD

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\*\*\*

### RAVENSHOE, QLD

Help wanted in exchange for camp site. 1-2 hours help per day needed on a bush block in the Ravenshoe area in exchange for camp site, power and water. Gardening and/or handyman work and general cleaning up of newly purchased block. Lovely area with lots of natural attractions and access to the Millstream gorge from the property (for fit travellers). [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### WELLINGTON, NSW

Carpenter/Builder wanted. Need a couple of weeks work done on old house in Wellington NSW. Pls respond with hourly rate. We have a backyard where you can park your van and plug into power. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

### CHILDERS, QLD

Farm hand wanted on Fish Farm. We need a physically fit person to help out 3 days a week for 1 to 3 months as a farm hand on our family owned fish farm. No previous experience required. Rate \$25/hour. [Click here.](#)

\*\*\*

## HOUSESITTING

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\*\*\*

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\*\*\*

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### PRIVATE CAMPS

#### TUMBY BAY, SA

Safe, quiet overnight stop over for self sufficient travelers, approx 10km north of Tumbly Bay, closed gate entrance 100m off the Eyre highway, pets welcome!

\$10 donation per night.

Contact Antony 0411 223 119

#### SOUTH WEST ROCKS, NSW

A private natural bush setting is available for travelling grey nomads. Must be self sufficient. Our property is on 5 acres with 2 level unpaved sites available for caravans or motorhomes. Easy access drive thru sites. Our camp area overlooks our dam with a fireplace & wood provided on your arrival. Sit back and enjoy the peace of the bush surrounded by birds & kangaroos. We are located 2 min drive to historic Trial Bay Gaol & Smokey Cape Lighthouse and all our stunning beaches are within 5 mins drive. Water is also available on request for filling your tanks. Sorry no pets. \$25 per night.

Contact: [lisamareeshelley1965@gmail.com](mailto:lisamareeshelley1965@gmail.com)

#### GOOMERI BUSH CAMP, QLD

Goomeri Caravan and Bush Camp, our little piece of paradise in the bush, located 3km from Goomeri township in SE Qld. We offer large grassy unpaved sites suitable for all types of camping from Motorhomes to swags. Every Friday & Saturday evening (weather permitting) join us for Happy Hour at the Communal Campfire with free Damper. [Click here](#) or Phone 0492 340 783

Email: [info@goomeribushcamp.com.au](mailto:info@goomeribushcamp.com.au)

#### MACLAREN VALE, SA

Located with 15 minutes drive from Adelaide's wine regions, we offer a level spot by the dam with fire bucket, access to power and unfiltered rain water. Quiet spot overlooking neighboring fields. Onsite portable toilet.

[Click here](#) to learn more or

PH: 0414 757 261