



In this issue:

• A track the best defense

• Queensland invests in Outback events

• Lovely Lancelin

'My secret is use common sense'

Novice nomad, Philip Drew, weighs into the safe caravan towing debate

I'm currently on the road around Australia and would support voluntary training, particularly if it could be made affordable ... maybe a combination of theory and practical modules.

I would not consider myself to have enough experience, especially when backing, however I am getting better.

What I can claim is to use common sense when towing, particularly with respect to the following:

Just because the speed limit says 100km/h, 110km/h or even up to 130km/h it doesn't mean that is what you should travel at! I am surprised at the number of large vans with big ute / truck type vehicles doing these speeds.

The best thing I have added is two rear caravan cameras (one high for general on-road use and one low for backing) which make it very easy (together with vehicle mirrors), so I have plenty of time to see what is coming and be able to manage situations including pulling off to the side to allow big trucks and caravans to pass.

The next best thing is the CB



Reversing into tight spots takes practise ... and Philip reckons he could benefit from a training course.

radio and I have been able to regularly communicate with the big road trains so, again, I can pull over when safe or slow down as the truck starts to overtake.

I have resisted adding big boxes and an array of heavy attachments to my van but I am amazed at some of the additions and placement on some vans.

I weigh every item that comes in and out of my van and regularly run both car and van over a weighbridge before heading off.

I have purchased a ball weigh scale and regularly check my ball weight and adjust the load

as and when required normally sit on around 90km/h but find a very small minority of caravanners sitting on around 80km/h speed up to a 100km/h when you go to past them. Go figure.

Finally, like a minority of other caravanners when travelling in convoy with friends, I never sit that close to the other caravan that anyone wanting to pass has to pass two caravans at the same time, certainly doesn't impress a 37-metre road train. I emphasise I am a novice and certainly could benefit from practical training, but using common sense does go a long way!

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Grey nomad members are being offered the chance to win two great prizes.

Recycled Mats is offering GN members the opportunity to win one of its hugely popular 2.4m x 5m **black and grey caravan mats**, valued at \$299.95.

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 - Two GN bumper stickers
- Annual GN membership currently costs \$49. Full details can be [found here](#). Please note, 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, we hope you will consider joining us as we strive to bring even more benefits to members of the expanding grey nomad family.

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Out of Africa

Fiona and Erich found camping in Australia was a little different

Born in South Africa and Zimbabwe respectively, Erich and Fiona Peters loved caravanning in Africa ... so, it's no surprise that they took to the on-the-road lifestyle in Australia like ducks to water. They arrived in Perth in 2012 via a stint in New Zealand and, although the wildlife here is arguably less threatening, they still prefer the relative security of caravan parks ... although they do plan to test out their 'self-contained capabilities' in the near future. As they are both still working, the couple are currently restricted to exploring closer to home but they say the Big Lap is now 'on the horizon'. "I used to caravan with my parents as a child in Zimbabwe and it was quite different from here from what I remember," said Fiona. "We were part of a caravan club and would go away as a large group ... I think, in Australia, people tend to travel either on their own or with a small group of friends." The Peters bought their 17.6' Goldstar Liberty Tourer late last year and tow it with a 2016 Mitsubishi Pajero Sport, which boasts a 3.1T towing capacity. "Our van is semi-off road, and has everything to make life on the road comfortable ... solar, washing machine, microwave, toilet, shower, fridge/freezer, nice long bed, aircon, etc," said



Erich and Fiona (above) are enjoying shorter trips in their van (left) before they retire.

Fiona. "We have also made a few little modifications to our van, including removing the jockey wheel to replace it with a Bos drill-operated jockey stand ... now putting the caravan onto the towball is so easy, with no knocking your knuckles when winding down the jockey wheel." As the couple got more seriously into exploring Australia, Fiona decided to do a towing course, and she found the two-hour RAC Caravan Safety training course invaluable. "As a couple we are probably a bit different to most travelers as I do just about all the driving when we are towing, as Erich just doesn't like driving that much," said Fiona. "Pulling into a caravan park and reversing the van in has

now become second nature to me and I don't even notice the spectators who are usually disappointed when I get it in, in one go!"

While they are waiting to retire and set off on the 'big one', Erich and Fiona say they are happy to continue to hone their 'living the dream' lifestyle skills with shorter trips. "We have met some people who we have now become firm friends with and we have a little Facebook group together," said Fiona. "I am hoping it becomes more like a club, with regulars going away together." Just like they used to do in Zimbabwe ... except with koalas, kookaburras, and kangaroos for company instead of elephants, lions, and giraffes!

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Potholes not a problem for GNT readers

Despite all the rains and consequent road damage, it seems that most grey nomads have managed to avoid suffering any significant pothole problems ... at least so far.

In our recent GNT poll on the issue, just 30% of respondents reported that they had suffered significant damage to their vehicles or their tyres as a result of dodgy road surfaces.

Unfortunately, Denny W was not one of them. He says he managed to run into a 'doozy' just out of Georgetown.

And nor was Tom J. He says his tyres took an absolute pasting ... and he suffered 'broken wind-screens from stones being thrown up out of potholes'. Chris T was largely unsympathetic and seemed to think grey nomad drivers' pothole damage fate was largely in their own hands.

"Drive to the road conditions," he said.

And Stewart G found a way to keep his vehicles even safer ... leave them in the garage!

"We have hardly gone anywhere due to Covid concerns," he said.

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Big-noting events

The Queensland government is investing in a plan to bring music to the Outback

A massive cash injection from the Queensland Government is set to use the power of music to tempt more grey nomads into the state's regional areas. It is investing \$20m in the Queensland Music Trails initiative over three years. The idea is to invite visitors to discover the wonders of Queensland's natural beauty, through itineraries of iconic music events in amazing and unexpected locations. Each regional music trail will feature a broad musical style that best evokes its distinct geography. In 2023, 16 different regional and metropolitan places will play host to bespoke music experiences across trails in various parts of the state. A Music Trails pilot last year in Jimbour, Charleville and Quilpie supported 33 jobs and delivered nearly \$8.5 million for the Outback visitor economy. Work has now started on the Outback roll-out of Queensland Music Trails from May in Longreach,



Opera at Jimbour proved a big hit with Outback audiences. (above) PIC: Mitch Lowe Photography / QMF
Grey nomads flocked to last year's pilot events in Outback towns (left) PIC: QMF

Winton, Blackall, Roma, and Toowoomba. "Since the launch of the Queensland Music Trails program, local mayors have been calling in to nominate their region for a place on the trail map," said Tourism Minister, Stirling Hinchliffe. "Eight more Outback communities are

signalling their enthusiasm to get involved ... and it's easy to see why." Mr Hinchliffe said the idea was designed to put Outback Queensland on the map as a music festival destination. He said both opera and classical music had already been performed in the regions, and

he was hopeful that long-term travellers would respond enthusiastically. "Grey nomads are an important segment of the Queensland tourism sector, accounting for 8% of visitors and 11.6% of night stays in the state in the December 2021 year," he told the GNT. "In the year ended March 2022 there were 724,000 grey nomads in Queensland – up more than 18% from the pre-Covid year to December 2019 ... they stayed 4.8 million nights which is 6.6% higher than in the 2019 year." Music Trails organisers hope the events will encourage up to 11,000 people to travel to the Outback for live music experiences that contribute to local visitor economies. Queensland Music Trails is an initiative of QMF (Queensland Music Festival). Its Chief Executive, Joel Edmondson, said it was a very exciting time. "Queensland Music Trails will be a mind-blowing travel experience, but at its heart and soul is a sincere desire to make a meaningful contribution to the story of Queensland," he said.

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A rocky road ahead?

Finance guru, Noel Whittaker, says nomads should prepare for change

Interest rates have just increased by 50 basis points taking the cash rate to 1.85%. It was no surprise – the Reserve Bank has made it clear that rate rises will continue until interest rates reach a level that they regard as normal. There are two very different viewpoints as to what the future may look like. I hear claims that after a year or so inflation will turn negative, and the bank will start reducing rates again.

My view is the opposite and, given the historical unreliability of any economic forecasts, I'll share my reasoning now. First, consider the way the Reserve Bank is thinking. They are well aware they screwed up badly by cutting rates far too low, and then leaving them down far longer than was appropriate. And the bank never wants to be seen as making ad hoc decisions based on short-term data. So, it is likely the bank will stop moving rates once they are satisfied their target has been reached, and then sit on their hands. Second, a major cause of inflation is electricity prices. Speak to anybody in the industry and they will tell you that the electricity crisis will not be solved easily and may last for years. Third, there are the shortages caused by the war in Ukraine. Putin is controlling the flow of



Volatility could be the norm in the next few years ... be prepared! PIC: Pexels

gas to Europe, which is likely to force them into recession as winter comes. As a result, they are losing their appetite for sanctions on Russia. Expect a long campaign, and the shortages caused by the war to continue. Fourth, think about inflation caused by wage increases. Workers have never had it tougher. Power bills are skyrocketing, petrol is taking an ever bigger chunk of their income, bills are increasing, and now they are copping a pounding with increasing mortgage repayments. Of course, they will fight for wage increases. Finally, another major inflationary driver is the building industry. Shortages of supplies

and skilled workers are getting worse and worse. It's obvious the building industry will continue to be in huge demand in the next few years. And it's not just the building industry. Staff shortages are at unprecedented highs. Many restaurants and holiday resorts are now forced to curtail the number of clients they can accept because there are not enough staff available to provide the services. Does anyone seriously think that all these workers will suddenly reappear in a year or so? If you put all this together, I see no reason to suggest things will be back to normal in a year or so. My view is that the Reserve Bank will keep raising

rates until they reach 4%, and leave them there for quite a long time. This is not the time to be complacent: take a good look at your finances and put safety buffers in place to safeguard your position for what lies ahead. These include making sure you are maximising your Centrelink entitlements, that your superannuation is in the asset class appropriate for your risk profile, and you have sufficient money in cash type areas for the next three years' expenditure. • Noel Whittaker is the author of **Retirement Made Simple** and numerous other books on personal finance. **Click to comment**



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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with fellow nomads

Re: **Caravan reversing.** The most helpful thing to remember when reversing a caravan is that you should move the **BOTTOM** of the steering wheel in the direction you want the **BACK** end of the van to go. Simple! Secondly, if you have a spotter as a visual guide, they must be able to see the mirror you are using while standing near the back corner of the van. Note: If the sun, or bright light, or a reflection of that light shines from behind you towards the driver or the mirror, you might as well not be there.

Thirdly, if you're the spotter, use clearly visible signals.
a. Hold one arm out horizontal to indicate which way the **BACK** of the van must go.
b. To indicate move backwards, move the other arm out beside you bending elbow up from horizontal and back to horizontal repeatedly.
c. To Stop, **CROSS** forearms above your head. If you don't hold arms away from your body, your signal may not be seen by the driver. Those basic signals (and others) work for aircraft on the ground!

Greg F

Re: **Silo art (GNT: 280).** I wholeheartedly agree. I went to see silos at Kimba, Cowell and Tumby Bay. Well worth seeking out.

Kathaleen H

Re: **Glass is half full (GNT: 280).** What an inspiration you both are to be touring this

wonderful country of ours. May you have many more travels ahead of you.

Colleen B

What a wonderful story. I wish Greg and Lyn many more happy adventures.

Alice D

What a great effort! You are an inspiration.

Tom V

Re: **Repairing vehicle scratches (GNT: 280).** The decision

to just live with it or repair will vary with vehicle age. Our secondary car is a 2010 Subaru with 67,000 kilometres on the clock and now sports a number of car park scars that will remain there as we do not intend selling the vehicle until we run out of capacity in 10 years or so.

Chris T

Re: **Big Lap plan disagreements (Jaclyn & Heidi: GNT 280).** Discuss a 'load sharing schedule' where you both

alternate each day as to determine that day's schedule. A load shared is a load halved.

Chris T

There's always a spread sheet to follow on a planned trip, especially if you have to be home by a certain date and don't want to miss out on any experiences. However, insisting that a few leisure times are included does take the regimentation off things. Insist on one a week for a start!

Ric D



This photo was taken on our last trip to western Queensland. One of our favourite stops is the Lake camping ground at Quilpie. A beautiful place to stop for a few days and relax.

Fiona & Michael Dale



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Letters to the Editor

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Where is it?

Outback events are back with a bang ... and a boot scoot (or something similar)! Last month, attendees at one festival held in the NSW bush came agonisingly close to claiming the World Record for the Largest 'Nutbush City Limits' Dance. Some 3,720 festival-goers boogied across the desert to the 1973 Tina Turner soul classic ... just 364 short of the record set at the Birdsville Big Red Bash in July. Can you name the event and where it took place?

Email answer here. The first correct answer drawn out of the hat will win two Grey Nomad stickers. The mystery location in GNT 280 was Nanny Goat Hill, Cooma. The winner was Alex Ai.



PIC: Matt Williams

Re: Free camping. We are grey nomads travelling Australia. We can't afford caravan parks so we use free camps. Caravan parks are going the same way as the milkman, the video stores and many other things in the modern world! People bought all their amenities when they purchased their RVs like us. Why would we pay for amenities we don't need? Would anyone? I think not.

David R

There are resort-style caravan parks and other types of parks. I prefer freedom camping because of the vista, space, and

like-minded travellers. If there is a need to stay in one location for a lengthy period, I do stop at a caravan park. I fully understand those travellers who prefer different options to me but, equally, can they understand other travellers please? If you are out and about, regardless of your options, please don't judge others as, being out and about, is what is, the common denominator. Enjoy.

Chris E (*Eight-year full-time traveller*)

Many free camp areas now are low-cost with no facilities. If someone books into a caravan

park for one night and uses all the facilities, then so be it. That's what we pay for. If caravan park owners are not happy with this, then perhaps they should work elsewhere. Take the good with the bad! After all, solar panel and battery companies are now a thriving business as more people are opting for the off-grid lifestyle.

Karen P

As in all walks of life, we all need to try and understand other people's points of view and their needs. No doubt it would be wonderful to be able to afford caravan parks throughout our travels but this

is not the case with so many of us. Many would not be able to travel very far at all if we were forced to take that road.

Helen E

We struggle to pay the exorbitant rates caravan parks charge because the Government cut our pension because we rented out our home for more than a year due to the homelessness situation. And, anyway, who wants to be sandwiched in with screaming kids, especially when our dogs are so unfairly penalised even when they are on leads and don't make noise?

Julie J



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Letters to the Editor

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Re: **What are the odds** (GNT: 280). We were down in Tasmania and stayed overnight at Sheffield. Just on dark, a van came in and parked a couple of spaces down from us. The next morning, the couple packed up and started to leave. I noticed the TV antenna was still up on the van so I raced out and got him to stop and told him what I had noticed. He thanked me and put it down. His vehicle was registered in NSW so, as we are also from NSW, I asked him what part of NSW was he from. His answer was that they lived in a little town between Canberra and the coast. My comment was: "So do we, which one?" His reply was: "Bungendore". This gave us a surprise as we are also from Bungendore. It is indeed a very small world!

Ian S

Re: **Slow grey nomads**. I have just had a bad experience behind a grey nomad in a motorhome going 80km/h in a 100km/h zone for about 30 kilometres with more

than 20 vehicles behind him when there were places that he could have stopped and let them pass. I suggest that grey nomads should be more aware

and let people go past. I know there are a lot of good grey nomads that do this and others that do go the speed limit. This was on the Bruce Highway.

Marilyn B



PIC: John Bennett

Re: **Watch this space** (GNT: 280) I was at Balladonia three months ago. Here is a picture of the Skylab fragment there.

John Bennett

WIN WIN WIN

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts
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Re: **Caravan faults (GNT: 280)**. We took delivery of a new, full off-road van in late 2021. Driving home with it we noticed it was lopsided so I pumped up the airbags. Next day it was lopsided again. There was a leak in the airbag. All told, we lodged a warranty claim for 18 faults with the van. For example, every window had the blind and fly screen installed upside down. It took seven months to resolve everything. We eventually left on our first big trip. Hadn't gone 400 kilometres on bitumen when the microwave fell out. It was held in by 4 x 10mm screws! We got onto our first dirt road and the door of the freezer fell off. We've been travelling for two months and have a further warranty claim for 10 items!

Richard S

The quality of caravans has been poor for a long time. My caravan required a lot of repairs only days after purchase.

Ian W

Enforce the ACCC rules and give the purchaser what they paid for.

Joe B

I placed a caravan order with a large supplier with clear specifications for features and inclusions. Delivery promises were broken regularly, and the specifications for items such as the refrigerator changed without prior discussion. Delivery was eight months

late and the van was towed at speed for 1,000 kilometres instead of being transported by truck as promised. On arrival, numerous deficiencies were identified, including incorrect water/sullage tanks, wrong brand tyres, and incorrect rear camera wiring. The dealer was

totally embarrassed by this situation. He offered to fix the shortcomings, but refunded my deposit without question when I declined his offer. My experience demonstrates that quality and delivery problems are not a recent phenomenon.

Name & address supplied



We love finding painted silos ... and have just visited the amazing and quirky public toilets at Maryborough. The golden 'throne' is something special. More than 20,000 visitors have been shown through the toilets by the 'Flusher Ushers', all volunteers. Well done, Maryborough!

Sheryl Storrer

The caravan industry still doesn't get it. Many of these issues are simple things for them to get right, but my guess is they will take very little notice.

John B

A family member took ownership 18 months ago of a new van and it has spent more time with dealership than it has being used. The average person cannot afford the cost of legal fees to pursue their legal rights under consumer rights.

Gail S

The only issue we have had was a brake issue. After hearing the many 'lemon' stories from new van owners, we will definitely not be upgrading.

Regina G

Back in 2010, a large manufacturer made a sterling effort to NOT accept responsibility for the external gelcoat crazing at a rapid rate on a three-year-old Australian-built van. Absolute refusal to view, or accept any responsibility and blaming me for poor maintenance despite my having used a respected fibreglass cleaner and polish regularly. Some \$7,000 later, with both sides recoated with two pack paint, the van still looks almost as new in 2022.

Chris T

From my experiences, I would not purchase a new van. I would prefer a well maintained 2- or 3-year-old van.

Jytte C

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Picture puzzle

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



Answer:
Litter

Our winner was:
Graham Jackaman

Win grey nomad stickers!



PIC CLUE:
The perfect time for grey nomads to head up north.

Email us the solution to the puzzle. Winner announced in Issue 282.



It's a wacky world

Australia may have a feral pig problem in some remote regions but, in Spain, wild porkers are actually 'invading' cities. It's estimated the country's wild boar population will surpass two million next year and they are commonly seen wandering about suburban streets, often causing scooter and bicycle accidents, and pestering people carrying shopping bags. There were 1,200 incidents involving wild boars last year in Barcelona alone.



Quiz corner

1. I am traveling directly between the WA towns of Wiluna and Leonora. Which highway will I spend most of my time on?

2. In 1867, the Nullarbor Plain was so named:

a) By Italian explorer Mario Andretti who combined the Italian words 'Nullar' meaning 'nothing' and 'bor' meaning boring.

b) In honour of South Australian government surveyor Eric Thomas Nullarbor who first charted the region.

c) By surveyor Edmund Delisser who used the Latin words 'nullus arbor' which translate to 'no trees'.

3. Mr Naked (anagram) A beautiful WA town with a hint of Scandinavia about it.

4. In which idyllic NT town does it sound like Loola might get taken but will be given back?

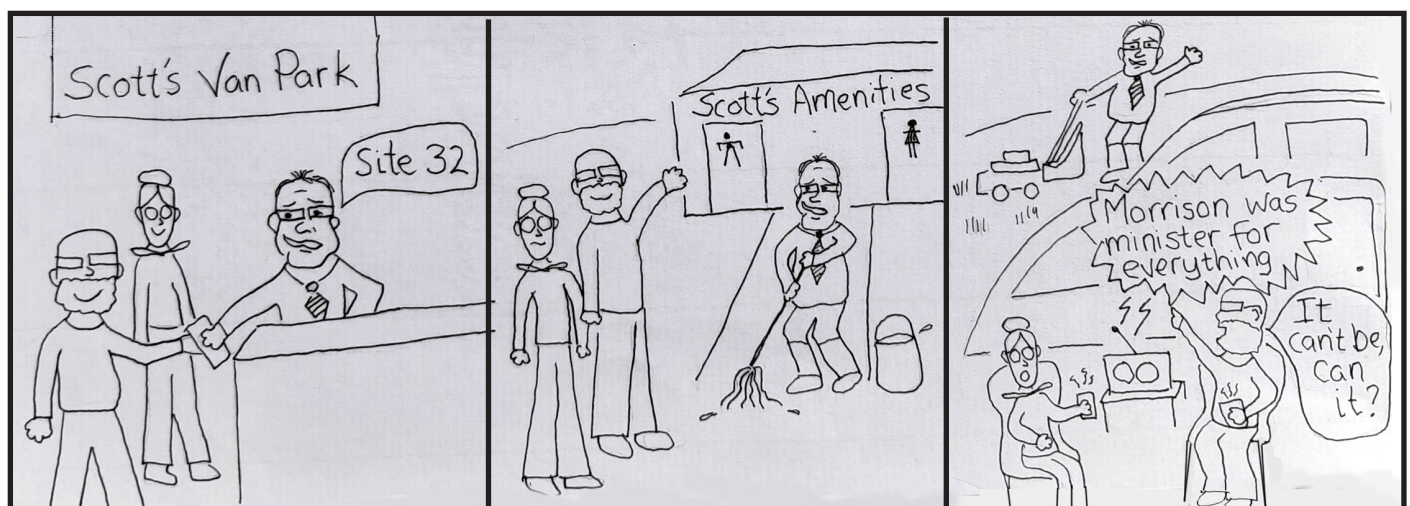
5. Shortest driving time between Katherine in the NT and Kununurra in WA?

- a) 514 km
- b) 602 km
- c) 875 km

(answers on page 12)



The Grey Area



Plan of a track



The surge in the popularity of the on-the-road lifestyle has had one unwanted side effect ... a similar surge in the number people wanting to steal caravans and motorhomes. With RV prices – and thefts – on the rise, grey nomads and other travellers are understandably looking at ways to protect their pride and joy. Travellers commonly consider everything from locks and immobilisers to security cameras and alarms ... and much more besides.

At the end of the day, though, recreational vehicles do still get stolen as thieves become ever more determined and ever more sophisticated. And there's only one thing worse than having your RV stolen ... not getting it back! The market for GPS trackers – devices that allows you to track where your vehicle is around the clock – have grown rapidly in recent years, offering customers a much improved chance of getting their stolen vehicles back ... as well as much greater peace of mind.

There are two main kinds of GPS Trackers – wired and wireless. The hardwired variety has the advantage of being 'set and forget' but can be more costly and 'findable'.



Eric uses his Solid GPS (right) to track his rig (left)

The wireless version is very compact and can generally be hidden anywhere in the vehicle, but its batteries will obviously need replacing from time to time.

Trackers now commonly come with an app that allows you to track your RV's location on your phone or computer if it's on the move. Many can be 'geo-fenced' so that the user is notified immediately the van moves out of a certain area. Some will even sound an alarm when moved unexpectedly.

The price of a GPS Tracker can vary significantly depending on the features offered and the company involved but, as a general guide, one of the leading Australian companies Solid GPS, sells its wireless tracker for \$147, and charges an annual subscription of \$69.99.

The company says its device's batteries generally last between three and six months and take about six hours to recharge. Users are alerted when the batteries are starting

to run low.

Eric Harrington – who has been travelling around Australia in his caravan for the past year – bought a Solid GPS tracker ahead of his adventure and is delighted with it.

"I haven't had any bad experiences yet, but the money I've invested in my 'home' was definitely a good enough reason to make sure I don't lose it," he said. "I just wanted to be able to know that my van is where it should be and that, if it does get stolen, I would have an opportunity to get it back." Eric, who stays in both caravan parks and free camps with his wife, says the Tracker was easy to set up and to monitor via an App on his phone.

"For me, it was a question of how do I safely and effectively safeguard my caravan," he said. "So yes, I've fitted it to my Zone van and it does give me peace of mind as I can look where it is at any time."

• Have you installed a GPS Tracker in your rig?

[Click to comment](#)

Survey

Loved to death?

New data shows that the number of people visiting national parks in WA, and elsewhere, is continuing to soar.

The most recent full-year numbers show regional destinations in particular are proving incredibly popular. The Kimberley and Wheat-belt regions, for example, have seen whopping 22% increases in visitation when compared to the previous year.

The statistics show there were 22.6 million visits to WA's national parks in 2021-22, up 5% statewide on the previous year.

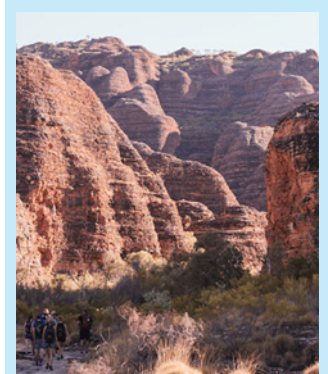
While that is obviously good news for a whole host of reasons, there are also potential negative impacts, both from an environmental and visitor experience perspective. What do you think?

POLL

Do you think our national parks are becoming too crowded?

☒ YES

☐ NO



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Lancelin's got the lot



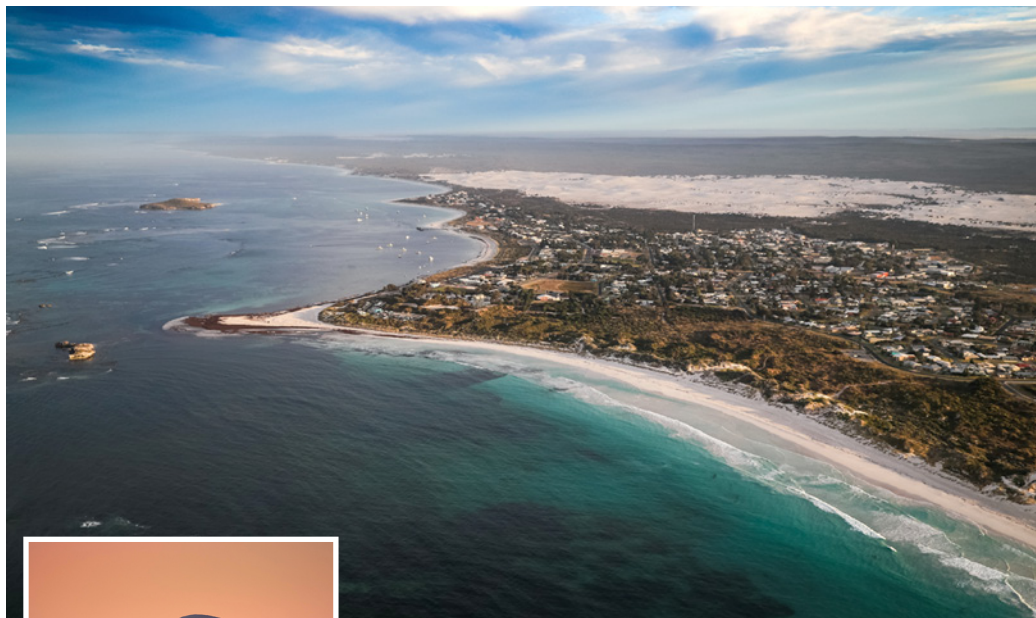
great
places

While the small WA coastal town of Lancelin is a famous destination for lovers of high-octane watersports, there's also plenty here to excite those seeking a more genteel visit ... stunning scenery, excellent fishing, and wonderful wildflowers for starters.

Located about 130 kilometres north of Perth just off the Indian Ocean Drive, the fishing town has a permanent population of around 700 which nearly quadruples in peak periods. That means there are a good range of services with several good caravan parks in the town itself, and many more in the wider Shire of Gingin area.

The rest area at the Moore River Bridge Rest Area, a little over 30 minutes south of Lancelin, allows 14-hour free camping.

Attractions include the incredible wildflowers in spring, the pristine beaches, the crystal clear turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, and – to the east – there are massive white sand dunes towering high above. Adventure seekers can try their hand at sand boarding down the slopes, but most grey nomads might prefer to simply sit on top of one of the dunes and enjoy the panoramic views over the town, the bay, and out to sea.



Coastal scenes in Lancelin (above) Wildlife viewing walkways at Lancelin island (left) PICS: Tourism WA/kymillman.com Giant sand dunes near Lancelin (far left) PIC: Tourism WA

Located just off the coast is Edwards Island which does not allow visitors, and Lancelin Island which does, and which is home to a wide variety of seabirds, the Lancelin Island skink, and sometimes to visiting sea lions. This island can be visited by boat, and a walkway allows explorers to stroll along and see the wildlife.

Now, for the more adrenaline-pumping adventurous aspect to this incredible spot. Lancelin has been building up quite

a reputation among kitesurfers and windsurfers, and surfers also love it ... with Back Beach a favourite spot.

And then there's the snorkelling and scuba diving. There is a string of 14 shipwrecks along the coast between Lancelin and Yanchep for experienced divers to look at. These include the Vergulde Draeck or Gilt Dragon, which sank in 1656 after running into rocks close to shore.

Most grey nomads will be hap-

py to hear though they don't have to get wet to enjoy the 'water sports' here. The fishing is great off the jetty and off the beach, with whiting, tailor and samson key targets.

Lancelin's location – and beauty – make it a perfect place for grey nomads to stop over on their way south to Perth and beyond, or north to the Pinnacles and up into the Pilbara and the Kimberley. Very few regret doing so.

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the Grey Nomad Times



**ASK JACLYN
and Heidi**

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

Not keen to tow the line

Dear Jaclyn and Heidi,

We had a few issues with our van that needed sorting out and, rather than 'growing roots' for a few weeks, we decided to keep travelling while staying in cabins and motels. Of course, there was a lot I missed about the caravanning lifestyle – such as the camaraderie of the campsites and amenities block chats – but I was shocked at just how much I didn't miss. Top of the list was the stress of towing a decent-sized van. Sure, it meant we couldn't stay the night out in lots of remote areas but we could still visit them. And the overall cost wasn't actually all that much greater. I feel liberated by not seeing the big van in the rear-view mirror. The problem is my wife, Ginny, is still very excited to pick up our van in a few days. How do I tell her?

Terry

Different strokes for different folks, Terry. And at different times of our lives. It's okay to look at trying different ways of travelling. You may be surprised and Ginny shares your enthusiasm for unhitching the van permanently. There's only one way to find out though, talk to her! If it's the physical and mental strain of towing a big van that's the main issue here, Terry, you don't have to go the Full Monty and go straight to the motel life. How about looking at a smaller van ... or downsizing to a campervan or a slide-on. It's entirely up to you and Ginny, though. It doesn't matter what label people give you ... grey nomad, caravanner, motorhomer, motel tourist ... the most important thing is that you are living your dream and seeing the country ... and that you are relaxed and happy as you do it.

Jaclyn

Interesting times, Terry. Of course, if towing the van is causing you undue anxiety then it's time to re-assess. If Ginny's still keen on keeping the van, then maybe you should discuss the possibility of her taking on all – or more – of the towing and reversing duties? Not to put too fine a point on it, it will then be time for her to hitch up ... or shut up. As we get older, things that we used to take in our stride seem to take on a magnified importance and grow more daunting. It's great that you have recognised that, and can look at the alternatives. In fairness, Ginny might be relieved to hear you talk to her honestly about your concerns. And, if you can make the motel sums add up, why not give it a try on a longer term basis? It's got to be better than going 'home' to mow the lawn, hasn't it?

Heidi

Click to comment

Nomads in Brief

Park plan

The Skenes Creek Foreshore Caravan Park on Victoria's Great Ocean Road is to be redeveloped, with work commencing shortly. Two new demountable buildings will be installed, along with a new reception building, a new toilet and an amenities block.

Hikers rescued

Four hikers – two men and two women – have been rescued after getting caught by icy weather in Kosciuszko National Park. The walkers spent days stranded in a hut before rescuers could reach them.

QUIZ CORNER SOLVED

1. Goldfields Highway
2. c) By surveyor Edmund Delisser who used the Latin words 'nullus arbor' which translate to 'no trees'.
3. Denmark
4. Borro loola
5. a) 514 km

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

2008 Hilux, 252000 kms and 2018 Off-Road Hard Floor Explorer Cub camper trailer. Sell Separately or Together. Both in Cairns. Dual cab Hilux, (model 3.0 D-4D) drives very well, welcome to test drive. Upholstery perfect, immaculate inside and out, two lockable tool boxes on tray. Explorer Cub 2018 off-road camper trailer, selling with new safety certificate and gas certificate. Still registered but will be sold unregistered. New battery. Hard floor, queen mattress, zips and window screens in good condition. Camper trailer bought new for \$24000, asking \$18000. Asking \$17000 'as is' for the Hilux. \$32000 for both if sold together. Owner returning to NZ. Email: mjhceh@gmail.com



FOR SALE

2018 Lightweight Luxury Bailey Astro Rangefinder caravan. One Owner (registered until May 2023). Price: \$63,000 (neg) – Excellent Condition with over \$2,000 of extras included in the price. Must be seen to see the full value and condition of this "Turn Key Ready" caravan. We also have a full document we can send you with all these details and more! Call now don't miss this fantastic home away from home. Please call Jayne – 0401 416 774.



FOR SALE

Automatic Turbo Diesel, 5 speed auto Power steering, Power door windows Full Service History Very good Condition Beautiful to Drive, Low Kms – 159036 kms Fitted with braking control system Fitted with tow bar, 17" rim Bridgestone Tyres, Shock absorbers replaced under 12 months ago, Towing capacity up to 3000kgs, Timing belt replaced at 150000 Servicing is up to date, New Turbocharger New battery, ANCAP Rating 4 It is fitted with a braking controller system for caravan towing and a tow bar. Pre-purchase inspection by authorised mechanic is welcomed. This vehicle was only used between 4 to 6 weeks for towing over a period of 10 years. Price is \$29,500 negotiable. Email: chrkei_5219@hotmail.com



FOR SALE

Imported F350 regio to 2.2.2023, 7.2 lt V8 Turbo Diesel, Auto, 279,000km, Dual batteries, Front cab captain seats with arm rest Chrome 16 in wheels, nudge bar, driving lights, step boards front and rear, extra gauges, Over-cab lights and side lights 2.4M (8ft) box. Alpenlite 11 Slide-on camper imported 2008, Electric jacks, 110V/12V with stepdown transformer, sleep capacity 5, North/South Q bed with bedside table, drawer and privacy screen, Thermostat controlled heating via 16,000 BTU ducted heating, freshwater, greywater & black-water tanks, stand-up shower with screen, separate toilet & vanity, and much more. Email: mckinneyross7@gmail.com



FOR SALE

Vista RV & Landrover 2012 Vista RV Crossover Classic. Australian made hybrid caravan/ off road camper with quality fittings and is totally dust proof. Excellent condition. NT registration to Feb 2023. Price: \$50,000 2011 LandRover Defender 110, 98,306 km, diesel, manual, new tyres and battery, recently serviced. Sidesteps, roof rack, wind deflectors, awning, apron, maxtrax in bag. Annual service by LandRover Darwin. NT registration to Apr 2023. Price: \$65,000 Both owned by seller since new and kept undercover. Email: tb051441@gmail.com



FOR SALE

Mercedes Sprinter Campervan / Motorhome Price: \$29,000 ono. Year 2002. Plate AL 22323. WA rego till 22/01/23. Km approx 314k. Location Chittering WA Self-contained / AC / Toilet & shower / HWS / Fridge / Gas stove / Sink / Microwave / pull out double bed / awning / solar panel / bull bar / towing hitch / portable gen set. 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



FOR SALE

Complete tow and rig. 2017 Isuzu 3Lt Turbo Duel cab / chaise 51,000 Ks – 09/05/2023 Rego 2017 555 A van 30,000Km approx. – 14/11/2022 Rego. Many extras Put in your food, clothes, hook up and drive off Email: minidulux@gmail.com



FOR SALE

2004 Coromal Excel 511 caravan. Selling our Coromal Excel 511, ready for your new holiday. Beautiful van, comes with AC and microwave. Also has a I shaped dinette, island bed and it's in great condition and priced to sell. Please contact Nigel on 0412 427 860



FOR SALE

Caravan / car package for sale. Caravan: Jayco Journey Outback semi-off road. 2018 excellent cond. Slide, east/west double bed. 21 ft. Car: 2012 Land Cruiser 200 Series, 168k km, great cond. All set to go, hoses and other extras included. Price \$135k. Located in WA. Ph: 0428 226 663.



the

Grey Nomad Times

Housesitting

There are many house-sitting positions available on the Grey Nomads website. [Click here](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Renault Kangoo Campervan 2008 Petrol, Auto, only 151,830kms. Qld rego Nov.'22 great condition. Had lots done in the 18mths I've had it, sadly can't travel now. Fully decked out under bed, Full Kitchen at Rear, Fridge Drawer, Gas Cylinder Cooker, Sink W Pump Tap, Hot/Cold Shower, Watertank on Roof Carrier with dropdown hose, Porta Potti, Plenty Cupboards & space above Driving Area, Wrap around Curtains, Sliding door both sides of Van, KINGS Annexe mounted on Roof Carrier also KINGS Stand Alone Awning Tent and much more. Located Redcliff Peninsula, north of Brisbane, Qld Price: \$18500 Email: susanferr@yahoo.com.au



FOR SALE

Avida Topaz 23ft Multi-Terrain Caravan Model CV7652SL Very low km only used on the east coast. Titan hydraulic wireless EZE levelling Bigfoot jack system, Independent Suspension, Electric brakes, Reverse cycle air conditioning, Additional custom built storage box, Solar panels, New dual batteries set up for off grid camping, 240ltr drinking water capacity, 120ltr grey water tank, External TV, New Internal TV 3 2" retractable, Ensuite with up sized washing machine, Slide out creating a huge internal space, Queen bed with new inner spring mattress & much more. Price: \$85,000 Located near Yamba, NSW. Regrettable sale. Email: pkcantrall@hotmail.com



PROPERTY

FOR SALE

Pandanas-RV Pre-Loved Home at Palm Lakes Resort in Bargara, QLD. Beautiful pre-loved home for sale. Price: \$725,000. O.N.O It is the Pandanas-RV model with \$41,000 worth of upgrades. Upgrades include: - 750mm high wall in front of study to form a front patio with tiled floor. - Sliding glass door with fly screen from the study to the front patio. - Internally adjustable bedroom window louvre awning. - Four zone Deakin Ducted Air Con. - Overhead fan in kitchen. - Rear Alfresco Area. - Extended Tiles and Artificial Grass area, 13 meters x 3 meters. - 50mm Solarspan Patio Roof Cover, 2.8 meters x 11 meters. - Zip Screens to cover the entire patio area, 15 meters x 2.4 meters drop. Email: wg.muller@bigpond.com



HELP WANTED

MAREEBA, QLD

We are a sporting horse facilities. We have two arena's. Grass and sand. With camping area. The grounds are located in the Mareeba borzi park sporting complexes. Stone throw from town. In exchange for ground keeping and odd jobs we offer free camping. One or two days of the week. There's enough room for two caravans if you're traveling with company. Set up in the shade of established pine and fig trees. We are looking for long term stays. 6 -12 month's. [Click here.](#)

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Programmed is now hiring for 2022 harvest season across Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. Roles include:

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PROGRAMMED GrainFlow

SCAMANDER, TAS

Looking for a couple or single to work in our caravan park in Scamander Tasmania For the Spring Summer season, maybe longer (www.scamandersanctuary.com.au). Jobs will entail, cleaning amenities, helping clean Glamping tents when required, some grounds work such as whipper snipping, cleaning gutters, general park tidy up, and some relief work in office- we use Newbook. (will train if necessary). Applicants will need there own caravan for which we will supply a private powered site with own ensuite and small kitchen/lounge area payment will be the award rate or \$30 per hour if contract with ABN Number. [Click here.](#)

MUNGALLALA, QLD

We are a young family of 5 on a sheep and goat station in SW Queensland, (70k south of Mungallala- a high clearance car and van will be needed to get here). We need a couple to come and help finish the last stretch out our weaning paddock fence, dozer breakdowns have delayed the progress but now we are all back up and running and wanting to get it finished. Exchange a few hours work on the fence for a powered site with access to private shower and ensuite. So if you are in the area and want a farm stay for a week or two please send an email with a reference - no prior fencing experience needed just a medium level of fitness. [Click here.](#)

BRIGHT, VIC

We are looking for people to assist with a "caretaker/night watchmen role" in 2 caravan parks located in Bright, Victoria. Role comes with free accommodation on a powered site (BYO caravan), with main duties to include light operational work around the park as required - we call it the night watchmen role as you are a second set of eyes and ears around the park. Assistance with phone coverage also part of the role. Payment negotiated based on individual preferences. Seasonal commitment preferred (ie from Spring to Autumn) but flexible. [Click here.](#)

MELBOURNE, VIC

Melbourne based logistics company is seeking a reliable person to assist with metropolitan deliveries. The applicant must have a one ton van or utility, flexible days or hours are offered, paid weekly. [Click here.](#)

NORTH OF PERTH, WA

We have a progressive, family owned and operated, broad acre cropping enterprise 3.5 hrs north of Perth. We are currently looking for 2 motivated people to join our harvest team assisting with the domestic and light farm duties - this position qualifies for second year visa. We are looking for people to start approx.. 24th October for a 2-month placement. Typical tasks include:

preparing meals for workforce of 8 people, general housekeeping and yard work, childminding: 5-year-old boy, 3-year-old girl and 1-year-old girl light farm duties to assist with harvest activities.

Requirements for the role; Previous cooking experience, Experience with kids, Manual drivers' licence Non-smoker. [Click here.](#)

MILES, QLD

Have you heard the news? We're prepping for a hot, hot summer at our Miles swimming pool Which means we're looking for a few new people to join our team!

A Learn to Swim teacher Pool Operator Season starts in late September and runs until the end of March with a variety of hours on offer. We can supply free industry training courses, and onsite training. [Click here.](#)

GREEN HEAD, WA

Free camp site and use of facilities in our Family owned small Hotel on the Indian ocean coast 2/12 hours north of Perth in a small village Green Head. in exchange for your camp site we would ask for 8 hours of work per week, if there is extra hours they will be paid hours. The jobs could consist of housekeeping, laundry, kitchen hand or cooking, waiting on tables or serving in the bar. This is a lovely village on the ocean with walk ways national parks plenty of fishing and water sports and the most diverse wildflowers in this area in the world. You need to see this place. We need you now and for as long as you like. [Click here.](#)

ROBE, SA

The award-winning Sea Vu Caravan Park located in the beautiful township of Robe in South Australia is looking for happy, motivated workers to join their fantastic team from November until March.

Positions available include:

Position 1: Cleaning - 9am- 1pm, 3-5 days a week.
Position 2: Grounds/Maintenance - 8:30am - 4pm, 3-5 days a week
Position 3: Front Office/Reception - 8:30am - 5pm - 3- 5 days a week. [Click here.](#)

PERTH, WA

We are a Perth owned small business looking for experienced commercial aluminium installers and glaziers to help us build commercial sliding windows, doors and frames over the next 2 month busy period. Experience with the below would be great and we can accommodate casual, part-time or full-time depending on what you can do! Ability to read and interpret fabrication / assembly drawings Unloading, unpacking and stacking aluminium extrusions Cutting aluminium extrusions using a high-speed drop saw Fabrication of windows and doors using power tools including plunger routers, crimpers etc. Assembly and installation aluminium windows, doors and hardware We are open to either negotiating an hourly rate, or renting you an airbnb for your stay for the period within a 5k distance from the factory which is in Landsdale. [Click here.](#)

PONGURUP NATIONAL PARK, WA

HELP WANTED on our beautiful Historic Retreat from 15/9/22. We are needing the help of a friendly and fit nomad couple or single to linger awhile. www.karribank.com.au We are conveniently situated on the door step of Porongurup National Park in a premium wine district 40 minutes from Albany and 20 minutes from Mt Barker. In exchange for your help we will supply you with power, water and toilet facilities(basic). We require help with gardening painting and always grateful for help with building and maintenance. we look forward to hearing from you. [Click here.](#)

HOUSESITTING

NORTH EAST VIC

Looking for a single or couple to caretake our home in the Victorian Alps from September 26 through November 5. It would be good to meet up prior to this if possible. We are on a 1/4 acre block in Bright, NE Victoria. The property backs onto the Ovens River and Canyon Walk, which follows the river and old gold works into town. We have a 7 year old Dalmatian Zaccy who needs walking at least once a day. [Click here.](#)

SUNSHINE COAST HINTERLAND, QLD

House Sitter wanted for approximately 2 months from end September to end November. (exact dates to be advised) We need someone to stay at our house to water the plants and maintain the gardens while we are away for work. [Click here.](#)

BINDOON, WA

Seeking active housesitters with handyman skills and gardening experience, from 5th November 2022 to 4th May 2023 for a 2.8 acre property in Bindoon. Bindoon is about 65's from Joondalup and Midland and 75k's from Perth CBD. [Click here.](#)

the Grey Nomad Times

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PRIVATE CAMPS

TUMBY BAY, SA

Safe, quiet overnight stop over for self sufficient travelers, approx 10km north of Tumby 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

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

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