

Home and a weigh

Police are again urging grey nomads to understand - and adhere to - weight limits

With caravan rollovers continuing to occur on a regular basis, more and more attention is inevitably being focussed on driver skills and on correct rig weights.

A recent social media post which claimed 65 of the 72 caravans and motorhomes weighed by police in a random stop at Capella in Queensland were found to be overweight has gone viral.

However, Queensland police say the weighing event referred to in the post is actually three years old.

Nonetheless, they say, the lessons remain relevant.

"As part of our ongoing commitment to road safety throughout Central Region, police will periodically intercept and weigh vehicles towing trailers, caravans, boats and horse floats, and provide unsafe vehicles with directions to fix any issues identified at the next available opportunity," a police spokesperson told the GNT. "Whilst many of the vehicles weighed have been overweight, the majority of the time this can be corrected by moving items between the vehicle and their van/trailer, and vice versa."

Police said that failure to comply with weight limits can make vehicles unstable caus-



Police use scales to weigh a caravan at a Gin Gin rest area this year

PIC: Queensland Police

ing accidents that can result in serious harm to road users.

"Motorists need to be aware of their vehicle's gross vehicle mass (GVM), their van/ trailer aggregated mass (ATM) and their combined Gross Combination Mass (GCM)," the spokesperson said. "When towing, police urge all motorists to be aware of and avoid sudden accelerating, braking or steering manoeuvres, consider additional stopping time and maintaining larger gaps when following other vehicles, and account for the additional length and slower rate of

acceleration when turning or over-taking."

Police regularly attend caravan and camping shows providing education and advice on how to work out weights, and they also conduct caravan educational sessions.

At one held at a rest area at Gin Gin in Queensland earlier this year, officers weighed caravans and vehicles, and provided advice on proper packing so that weight is evenly divided over axles. Police there found that 90% of caravanners had no idea how much weight they should be towing, or if they had packed

their van and vehicle correctly. As well as a growing focus on weight education, there also remain persistent voices calling for the introduction of some sort of compulsory towing course for caravanners. With the caravan and camping lifestyle booming, the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO), for example, has previously said accredited training for first-time towers could be an important step towards improving road safety.

• *When was the last time you weighed your rig?*

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'This is the life for us!'

Russell and Sandra's love of the lifestyle started slowly ... and then picked up pace

For some grey nomads, full-time life on the road is something of a leap into the unknown while, for others – like Russell and Sandra Kelly – it's more of a natural progression.

The couple bought their first caravan, a 16' Jayco, back in 2008 and spent several years taking short trips and mainly staying in van parks, However, in 2011, they took a trip to Alice Springs and came home to Central Victoria via the Oodnadatta Track ... and everything changed!

"We updated our caravan to a Supreme Classic and updated several items including the suspension to make the van semi offroad," said Russell.

"Our first big trip in this van was to the Birdsville Races via Tibooburra and Cameron Corner and then we did a bit of a Queensland circuit to Boulia and Longreach ... we really had the bug for Outback travel then."

The next step in their progression to full-time travel was when they took long-service leave from their jobs in 2015 and travelled to Cape York, doing the Old Telegraph Track, and into Arnhem Land and across to Darwin.

"We both had trouble settling back into work after this trip," admitted Russell.

So, when they both retired in



Russell and Sandra (above left) travel in a Mazda BT50 and a Supreme caravan (top). Their trip to Cape York (above right) whetted their appetite for adventure.

early 2022, there was only one thing on their minds ... another big trip! They spent five months travelling up to the Kimberley, including the Gibb River Road and Mitchell Falls, before following the coast down to Geraldton and inland to Kalgoorlie, and home. That was finally enough to make the pair realise that life on the road with no time restrictions was the life for them. "When we got home, we rented our house out and started our life as grey nomads," said Russell. "We are still travelling

with our 2013 Supreme caravan now but have upgraded our 2011 Mazda BT50 dual cab ute to a 2023 Mazda BT50 extra cab."

Until recently, they also travelled with a roof top tent for when they got into the rough stuff like crossing the Simpson Desert, but both being in their 60s they have now called time on that 'before one of us falls down the ladder'.

The couple, who mainly free camp, say they never wanted to 'do the lap' but pick destinations and then slowly make

their way there with no bookings or definite route of travel. "We believe that we have slipped into this lifestyle very easily because we have been doing this for quite a while prior to our retirement and had worked out what we liked and didn't like," said Russell. "In our first trip in retirement we travelled quickly as we had done while working, but have now slowed to a much more relaxed and affordable pace ... we love this lifestyle and would recommend it to anyone."

Click to comment



The lows ... and highs

After severe storm damage, could a cable car be the best way to ensure cave access?

Most grey nomads will be all too familiar with the devastation that Australia's wild weather can wreak. Whether it be bushfires, floods, or extreme winds, nature's fury regularly sees roads, campsites, and national parks closed ... and infrastructure like boardwalks and lookouts badly damaged. Sometimes repairs can cost millions of dollars and take many years to carry out, often in the hope that the investment will 'future proof' access.

And potential solutions are becoming ever-more innovative. A case in point is one of NSW's most stunning natural attractions, the limestone formations of the Jenolan Caves. For most visitors to the southern Blue Mountains National Park, a viewing of the labyrinth of stalactite-lined chasms carved by underground rivers is an absolute must ... or at least it used to be.

Jenolan Caves has been closed to the public since extreme rainfall flooded buildings and caused landslips back in



Stabilisation work is being carried out PIC: Transport for NSW

April, 2024. And, for several years before that, the precinct had been subject to a series of disaster-related closures.

While Transport for NSW is carrying out slope repairs and strengthening work on access roads, the construction of a cableway system is now also being considered to guarantee future access.

A spokesperson for the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust told the GNT there was a commitment to reopening the caves in 2026

... and keeping them open.

"A whole-of-government approach is being applied to consider future options for access, including potential non-road options which have been explored in the Jenolan Caves Access Options Analysis Report," the spokesperson said. "The report was completed by consultants for the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, and concluded a cableway (gondola) was the most viable and feasible option to consider as a



Will something like this help people access the caves?

non-road option."

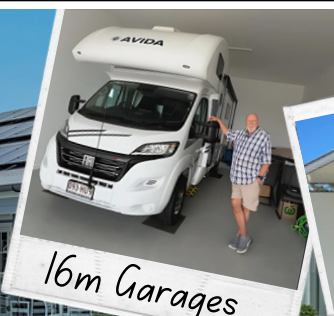
The gondola option was preferred to a funicular railway due to cost, environmental impact and constructability. "The proposed travel time on a gondola would be approximately 5.5 minutes, with a 500-metre drop in elevation over a one-kilometre travel path," said the spokesperson. "However, no decision has been made to build this infrastructure."

Given that, prior to the closures, the Jenolan precinct attracted around 225,000 visitors per year, it is understandable there is strong determination to find a permanent solution. And the report apparently suggests a gondola could help facilitate up to 900,000 visitors per year.

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A mountain must

WA's much-loved bushland country music festival, the AFGRI Mountain Country Music Muster, is back for 2025 ... and grey nomads are being invited to dust off their cowboy hats and hitch up their trailers!

Nestled at the foot of the spectacular Stirling Ranges, this three-day celebration of country music, community spirit, and camping under the stars will take place from October 30 to November 2 at the beautiful Mt Trio Bush Camp & Caravan Park.

"There's nothing else quite like it," said Muster organiser, John Byrne. "It's country music in its natural home ... surrounded by gum trees, mountains, and mates."

The 2025 line-up features a mix of beloved country acts and rising stars, with live stage performances from the back of vintage farm trucks and the ever-popular Poets' Breakfast.



The muster features many live stage performances (above), and is very popular with audiences (left) PICS: AFGRI Mountain Country Music Muster

Headline acts include country artist, Justin Standley; entertainer extraordinaire, Amber Joy Poulton; and singer-songwriter, Connie Kis Andersen. Festival goers can also enjoy

great camping, a licensed bar and food vans on site, local market stalls, bush dancing, and much more.

[Click here](#) for further information.

Steampunk Fair rolls in to Goulburn

The Steampunk Victoriana Fair – to be held in the NSW town of Goulburn on October 18 – offers visitors the chance to travel through time ... as it never was. The retro-futuristic fair has clothing, art, music and so much more on offer, plus a chance to dress up in the genre that melds the classical Victorian era with indus-

trial progress and all things powered by steam. There will also be an array of fantastic food and Steampunk-themed market stalls. The event is held at the Goulburn Historic Waterworks, situated on the beautiful Wollondilly River, and tours of the building will be available.

[Click here](#) for further information.



Expect quirky costumes



Events on the horizon

► Griffith Spring Fest

The inland NSW city of Griffith is gearing up for the eagerly anticipated Griffith Spring Fest, which runs from October 12-25. Highlights include the chance to see more than 60 sculptures made from locally grown oranges and grapefruit, to explore some of the region's finest private gardens, and to enjoy a lively street party.

► Kakadu Bird Week

► Bloom Festival

► Darwin International Laksa Festival

► Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations

► A Natural Escape

► Riverland Rose and Garden Festival

► Sculptures in the Garden

► Royal Geelong Show

► Lost & Found Festival

► Flinders Island Agricultural Show

► Orange Wine Festival

► Murrumbateman Field Days

► Rodeo by the Sea

► Eat Drink Play Gippsland





Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts
with fellow nomads

Re: 12 Apostles fee proposal (GNT: 358). Charging Australians to visit a War Memorial is immoral. I, for one, will never pay to travel on the Great Ocean Road ... a National War Memorial constructed by ex-servicemen from The Great War.

Vince C

Why don't we put a turnstile on every natural attraction ... maybe the beaches, too?

Sue Mc

A small fee would be acceptable.

Jen G

I say absolutely not, it is a disgraceful proposal. What next a fee to climb Anzac Hill in Alice Springs to view the town? Charge to enter any of the state's botanical gardens? A fee in WA to wander through Kings Park? A fee to look at the Flinders Rangers in SA? The fact that the government in Victoria cannot manage a budget should not impact on the people is right to see a natural wonder.

Klaus S

There should be no charge. I was there when Toyota drove across London Bridge for advertising. A week later, it collapsed.

Garry D

For a start, the roads need fixing. Everything is overpriced. Food prices are exorbitant and souvenirs the same. Look at the prices of helicopter sightseeing tours ... just unbelievable! Anything to extract money from tourists.

Michael B

Yes, I think it should come to protect the place. Bad behaviour at visitor sites is becoming more common, as is vandalism. We visited the Head of Bight whale watching site. Once whale season is



Thieves jacked up the caravan and snatched one of the wheels

PIC: SAPOL

Wheel taken

While grey nomads are very much aware of the need to take sensible steps to protect their often-expensive caravans from thieves, not as much focus is put on wheels ... but perhaps it should be!

One unlucky vanner recently returned to their rig, which was parked on Main Street in the tiny rural community of Owen in South Australia's Adelaide Plains, to find their dual axle caravan had been jacked

up and a wheel stolen! Police are investigating. Owen is about 80 kilometres north of Adelaide.

* Have you ever had anything stolen while on the road?

Email us here to share

declared, you pay to come in. Before and after that, it is free. But it protects the infrastructure that is built to provide a good visitor experience.

Gill K

When you can hold back the tides and control evolution, then you can charge people to stop looking. I first saw these Apostles 65 years ago and they were pretty much joined together, but tidal wash has separated them to what they are today. Accept it for what it is. Almost as bad as a politician saying 'I can repair it'.

Stan G

Would be nice if there were still 12 Apostles to see! With the weather and the ocean taking them away, how can you justify a fee to see something that is not 12 anymore? The next move would be to charge us all once we leave our front door. The country has too many attractions now that have a fee to enter.

Elisabeth O'N

Most tourism precincts will bend over backwards to attract visitors. Then, when they come, they roll out the welcome mat and do all they can to get them to stay longer and

bring their mates. It would be hard to think of a more effective way to turn away visitors than what is being proposed. It will certainly work for me because I'll stay well away!

Des S

The plan to charge a fee to see the 12 Apostles is appalling. They are a creation of nature, not man made. The visitor centre is absolutely unnecessary ... imagine the destruction to the environment during its construction. All can be seen without human interference.

Regina G

the Grey Nomad Times



Letters to the Editor

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SmartBar Photo of the Month

Congratulations to Anthony and Vicki Little for their colourful shot of the Olgas.

"The photo was taken of the Olgas viewed from the west, through the Great Central Road," said Anthony.

The photograph wins this month's SmartBar Photo of the Month competition. Graham picks up a \$50 ARB voucher, courtesy of our competition sponsor, **SmartBar**.



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



Re: **Eating on the road** (GNT: 358). We just travelled across the NT from Qld to WA and were completely surprised at the great quality and reasonable pricing offered at the roadhouses along the route.

Rob & Kaye H

We try to be self-sufficient, buying good quality ingredients ... local, where possible. The quality of bought food out is pretty poor and unhealthy. Cafes, hotels and now even clubs often rely on frozen

products that are quickly deep fried, usually served on a huge bed of chips. The same boring menu over again, and way too much for our smaller appetites. Now, we order one meal and state we will be sharing and ask if we can have an extra plate. So far, no one has refused this. We eat just the right amount and, if there is a choice of chips or veges or salad, we skip the chips.

Gill K

We're self-sufficient. I can cook better than so called

'chefs', and some of the prices just don't allow one to eat out often!

Tony J

Generally, we ensure that we have sufficient food on board to last us a few days as a minimum. An exception might be if we are crossing a border where quarantine rules apply and we minimise fresh fruit and vegetables. So, we mostly self-cater and go to a restaurant or pub for a meal as a treat. We like to mostly free-camp where possible,

but also stay in van parks if a longer stay is planned or the laundry needs doing. Some van parks put on a meal one night a week and we will often take advantage of that eat-out opportunity to meet the hosts and other campers.

Stewart G

Re: **Food poll** (GNT 358)

81% of respondents chose Plate 1; 15% chose Plate 2, and 4% said they'd rather go hungry than eat either option!



Joe H Henry

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts
with fellow nomads

Re: Sharing driving responsibilities (Jaclyn & Heidi: GNT 358). Some time ago there was a story on TV about a couple who were camping remotely when hubby fell out of the door of the caravan and broke his hip. To get help, the vehicle had to be driven to a spot where they had UHF and phone network access. The husband had never allowed his wife to drive the rig so, with a broken hip, he had to drive to the rendezvous with the RFDS! Tell hubby that if anything happens to him, you need the experience and confidence to drive your rig to find help!

Annette F

We have been caravaning now for nine years. My husband's work had him occasionally driving trucks, so he was a great instructor when I first started towing the van (17' pop-top). Now, he relaxes with a Sudoku puzzle or enjoys the scenery as he is a bit of a 'tourist', who loves to look around while we travel. To Helen, I say jump into the driver's seat before Ted can get his butt in there ... and tell him you are taking over for a little while!

Jacquie O

Re: Fighting driving fatigue (GNT: 357). But what action should a driver take if they find they have dozed behind the wheel? In most cases, the vehicle drifts to the left down the camber of the road but it is usually still parallel to the line of the road. It is at this point the wheels hit the dirt and more often than not the driver wakes with a start and over-reacts ... and that is where the problem starts. If possible, it would be best to discipline yourself to freeze



PIC: Russell Kelly

Where is it?

It may not be the easiest place to get to, but this spectacular natural amphitheatre is certainly worth the effort ... especially if you like to hear yourself sing! So, do you know what it is called, and where it is? **Email us here** if you think you know. The first correct answer drawn will win two Grey Nomad stickers.

The mystery location in GNT 358 was Melrose, South Australia. The winner was Noel Brown.

on the wheel until you regain your senses, and then ease back into the roadway.

Grahame A

Re: Most paid for fuel (Letters: GNT 358). We have just travelled the Great Central Road from Laverton to Ulu u. We paid \$3.30 for diesel at Warakurna. But it's a long way to cart fuel in and only one place to get it, so you can't complain. Driving slower over the corrugations reduced the fuel usage a bit.

Gill K

We paid \$2.40 for diesel on August 31, 2024, at Madura Pass Oasis Motel on the Eyre Highway, about 190 kilometres

west of the WA/SA border.

Andrew

We just got back from four months touring WA top end, and remote NT. Dearest we paid for fuel was \$3.50 litre at Roper Bar. If you need it, the cost is whatever it takes!

Tony R

Mount Dare, SA ... \$2.80 for diesel in 2020. You just have to pay as there is nowhere else. The tanker had a four-day return trip to deliver fuel so it is what you would expect.

Cherile H

Nullarbor Roadhouse ... \$2.99 per litre.

Kevin R

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Letters to the Editor

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Re: **Loch Ard Gorge lookout** (GNT 358). \$8 million for that! What a waste of money. Completely out of place in that area. Why do we have to depart from a simple lookout and signboard? Are we feeding some bureaucrat's ego?

Alan P

I think the new 'lookout' looks horrible. I am only looking to see the gorge, not some over designed, award-winning horrible lookout. Just build a normal lookout and people will use it.

Bruce M

We passed through this area earlier this week. Sadly, Loch Ard was not open to the public. At least your photo shows what we missed.

Graham J

This may be an impressive structure with interpretive meaning and implied links to the land on which it is built, but it is a man-made structure imposing on the natural environment. If these structures were minimised to smaller designated boardwalks to protect the natural fauna, then there would be no need to impose a fee to view the Earth's natural wonders. Visitors can enjoy a much better experience seeing these wonders in the natural setting. There is no place for these 'developments'. In my opinion they detract from the natural wonder rather than enhance the experience.

Memphis M

Re: **Great Places** (GNT: 358). We stayed in Gilgandra recently for about four days staying in a combination of caravan parks and free camps.



PIC: Ezza

Adventure awaits! After the research has been done, the perfect rig has been bought, and the fuel tanks have been filled, there is no better sight in the world than a long, straight, empty Outback road!

The museum was so well kept (mostly undercover) and so interesting for any vintage vehicle buffs. Lovely little town!

Lynn K

Re: **Showgrounds**. In most issues of the GNT, there is an article which announces that this or that council has spent a significant amount of money at their showgrounds to upgrade the facilities so that grey nomads can be allowed to stay there. At least once per year (assuming they have a show) the locals and visitors use the existing facilities, so why are they not suitable for grey nomads? During the show there would be a lot more people using the facilities

than a few grey nomads at other times, so it isn't an issue with capacity. I suspect that it is just an excuse to use for not making the facilities available. At one show/sports ground the facilities consisted of about six shower heads and a bench. I was very grateful that the community provided and allowed us to use these facilities. On many occasions, I have camped by a creek/waterhole/river where the only facility was a tree that had a limb that I could throw a rope over to haul up a canvas shower bucket. If you think that we live in the land of the free, then this is what it means.

Jim K

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Picture puzzle

Last week: The second half of an iconic mining town in WA's Goldfields.



Answer: Boulder (Kalgoorlie-Boulder)

Winner: Robert Broderick

Win grey nomad stickers!



PIC CLUE: Grey nomads would be wise to book well in advance if they're planning on heading to this north-western tourism magnet next Dry Season.

Email us the solution. Winner announced in Issue 360.



It's a wacky world

Magpie swooping season is well and truly here and that means walkers ... and cyclists ... had best be on their guard. According to the Magpie Alert website, almost a third of swooping attacks are on those riding bikes. So far this year, the site has logged 3,885 attacks, resulting in 442 injuries.

Magpie swooping season lasts about six weeks when the birds, which are protecting their nests, perceive passing people as a threat.



Quiz corner

1. I am travelling directly between the Tasmanian towns of Scottsdale and Derby. Which highway will I spend most of my time on?

2. The Victorian fishing town of Port Fairy was previously known as Belfast but was re-named:

a) In 1907, in tribute to Tinker Bell, the famous fairy in of JM Barrie's recently-published play, Peter Pan, which was causing a sensation at the time.

b) In 1874, when three superstitious fishermen ... brothers Alan, Peter and Tom Grimm ... landed a massive haul of tuna off the coast here on a day when all other boats came up empty. They put it down to the work of the 'fishing fairy'.

c) In 1887, after the Fairy, which was the name of one of the original whaling boats that first sailed into the area.

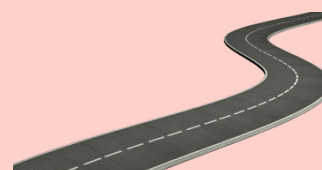
3. Goals (anagram). This group of large, domed rock formations are a stunning Red Centre attraction.

4. It sounds like this Victorian high country town was named by someone who didn't like to say no. Just the opposite in fact.

5. Shortest road distance when travelling via the Nullarbor between Port Hedland in WA and Port Macquarie in NSW?

- a) 2,922 kms
- b) 3,847 kms
- c) 5,034 kms

(answers on page 12)



The Grey Area



No gaslighting for portable cooktop



For grey nomads who like to get off the beaten track and to enjoy a nice hot drink or cook up a quick meal while they are there, the issue has always been needing to stay close enough to the van to use an electrical outlet, or to hook a stove up to a gas bottle. But a new era is about to dawn!

US-based company, Lectric Boil, says it is in the final stages of developing the Overlander — an innovative battery-powered induction cooker and power bank. It claims the device will be the first portable induction stove and generator with a removable battery. The unit includes two induction 'burners', each capable of 1200W of power, and a total of 1kwh of capacity. Lectric Boil says this is enough to cook for over an hour on a continuous boil or 2-3 hours on medium heat. The first burner is 25 centimetres wide and is capable of 1800W in boost mode. The second burner is 15 centimetres wide and is capable of 1200W, unless the first burner is in boost mode ... in which case it can achieve 600W max.



The Overlander is portable and battery powered PIC: Lectric Boil

Jarret Schlaff, the founder of Lectric Boil, told the GNT that the company planned to sell the Overlander in Australia in the next two years, and was working to ensure it can recharge with 240V, solar, or 12V truck outlet. "The future of outdoor and off-grid cooking isn't fuelled by propane or gas ... it's powered by renewable energy," he said. "Our products are more than stoves — they're portable power solutions built to keep you safe, prepared, and cooking anywhere without fossil fuels."

And Mr Schlaff says the ad-

vantages are self-evident. "Anywhere can be your kitchen, from a campsite to the back of your vehicle while tailgating," he said. "But without deadly fumes, without greenhouse gasses, without open flames risking wildfires." The current anticipated retail price of the Overlander is US\$1,500, although Lectric Boil says this could be subject to change as it moves closer to full-scale production.

• Can you see a use for the environmentally-friendly portable cooking device on your Big Lap?

[Click to comment](#)

Survey results

Book bonanza

Chilled-out grey nomads are pretty serious book-worms, with a whopping 81% of respondents to our recent GNT poll on the issue saying they had picked up a book the previous day. "My books are my anti-stress device," said Annette F. "When I'm lost in a story, it's impossible to think about anything else!" Nell L also loves her books. "I like to have one near my chair and I cart lots in our van," she said. Guy W wasn't about to turn any pages, though. "I am spending more time reading items on the laptop, instead," he said.

Have your say

Australia is facing a full-blown housing crisis, but a recent survey revealed 69% of empty nester households had no intention of moving out of their larger homes. It's led to organisations like the Retirement Living Council to call for the removal of financial barriers to encourage older Aussies to 'right-size' and free up housing for young families. Another idea, of course, would be to offer incentives for older Aussies to become full-time grey nomads, either selling – or renting out – their homes.

POLL

Should nomads be financially rewarded for freeing up the housing stock?

☐ YES

☐ NO



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Back to Bourke



The great poet Henry Lawson wasn't actually writing to grey nomads when he penned the phrase 'If you know Bourke, you know Australia,' ... but he might as well have been! Any long-term traveller seeking to understand the history of this country simply must visit this unique Outback NSW town.

Located on the southern bank of a bend in the Darling River approximately 370 kilometres north-west of Dubbo, Bourke itself boasts a population of around 1,500.

British explorer, Charles Sturt, first came here in 1828, but it wasn't until seven years later that Sir Thomas Mitchell returned and, following tension with local indigenous people, built the small Fort Bourke stockade.

A couple of decades later, paddle steamers began to arrive and pastoralists followed as the stock and wool trade boomed. In 1883, the iconic North Bourke Bridge – the oldest moveable-span bridge in Australia – opened, and then came the railway.

Bourke also used camels for Outback transport, and the graves of some of the early Afghan cameleers can be found in the Bourke Cemetery. Other gravestone epitaphs here tell stories of murders, suicides, police shootouts, and natural tragedies like drownings and lightning strikes.

The Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre sits on the banks of the Darling River and uses interactive installations and screen displays to bring the stories of those early explorers, poets, and



A spectacular Outback sunset over the Darling River, Bourke (above).



Some visitors to the area stay at Kidman's Camp, in North Bourke. (left).

PICs: Destination NSW

bushrangers to stunning life. Taking a one-hour cruise on the PV Jandra, a replica of the old paddle vessels, is another great way to re-live Bourke's days as an important port. The town boasts some amazing historical buildings which recall its prosperous past. The oldest documented building is St Ignatius Catholic Church which opened in 1874; the Post Office Hotel was built in 1888; the Court House was built in 1900; the London Bank (now the Gidgee Guesthouse) was built in 1888; the old Carriers Arms Hotel (once a Cobb & Co stopping point) was built in 1879; and then there's the historic police station which dates back to the 1800's. As a service town, Bourke has several good pubs including the Port of Bourke Hotel, and some other great places to grab

a bite including the historic Morrall's Bakery.

There are numerous other points of interest around, including the Bourke Wharf, which is a replica of the original wharves in the town. The wharf is also home to the Crossley Engine, an oil-fuelled stationary engine manufactured by the Crossley Brothers in 1923.

Both the Bourke Aboriginal Art Gallery and the Back O' Bourke Gallery are well worth a look and, 16 kilometres out of town, is a re-creation of the original Fort Bourke Stockade. Poet's Corner in Bourke's Central Park contains memorial stones for Henry Lawson, who spent time here in the early 1890s, as well as other local writers including Will Ogilvie, Harry 'Breaker' Morant and Francis Humphris Brown.

There's also the grave of famous eye specialist, Fred Hollows; the Nancy Bird Air Terminal; and an illustrated water tower celebrating the achievements of indigenous athlete, Percy Hobson. There's plenty to enjoy in the wider area, too, including the stunning views from Mount Oxley, 50 kilometres or so to the south east; and the rock art at Gundabooka National Park to the south.

Bourke's Mitchell Caravan Park and Kidman's Camp are both great options for a stay, and there are several stations in the area which also offer camping. There are some wonderful, more basic riverfront camps within striking distance, as well, including Mays Bend, Yanda Campground, and the Darling River Campground.

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the Grey Nomad Times



**ASK JACLYN
and Heidi**



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

'Our dog chases toads!'

Dear Jaclyn and Heidi,

We've run into an unexpected problem that has the potential to derail our trip. Hubby Jack and I travel with our three-year-old Fox Terrier, Bones. He's well trained and is very much part of our family. We're from Tassie and have spent the last six months slowly meandering up the east coast. We've decided to take a bit of a pause though and have just started a four-month housesitting gig at a property on the Gold Coast hinterland. But we hadn't realised there would be so many cane toads in the area, and that Bones would love to hunt them. We've already had one expensive trip to the vet, and several close shaves. Scarily, we feel it's only a matter of time! And we had planned to head further north next Dry season. What can we do??

Pam

I'm very sorry to hear that Bones has had to go through all that, Pam, and I can totally understand how much of a worry it must be for you and Jack. As you know, cane toad toxins can kill dogs and Terriers are natural hunters, so it can be a real problem. Obviously, the most important thing is that you educate yourselves about cane toads ... where they are, when they are most active, and – crucially – what you can do to keep Bones away from them, and what to do if he does ingest toxins. I suspect things will only get worse when the area starts to get more rain. It sounds then like you are just going to have to modify your routine whether Bones likes it or not. I think he is just going to have to stay on the leash, particularly around dusk. Good luck, Pam.

Jaclyn

The fact of the matter is that Bones is not going to suddenly stop chasing cane toads, Pam. In fact, I've heard the toxin can have a hallucinogenic effect which some dogs apparently enjoy! In other words, it's up to you and Jack to ensure that Bones doesn't continue to get a cane toad 'fix' that could kill him. It's not rocket science, though. You simply can't have him roaming free in environments where cane toads might be hopping. Assuming he likes to run free, I would imagine most dog parks would be free from cane toads, and – while you're still housesitting – it's probably worth regular trips to Gold Coast dog-friendly beaches. And the same principles will stay in play for the rest of your trip. Whether it's by restricting his freedom or heading out of cane toad country, you have to keep Bones safe.

Heidi

Click to comment

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QUIZ CORNER SOLVED

1. Tasman Highway
2. c) In 1887, after the Fairy, which was the name of one of the original whaling boats that first sailed into the area.
3. Olgas
4. Yea
5. c) 5,034 km

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

2020 Nissan Y62 Patrol and 2018 Jayco 17'6 Poptop Nissan Y62 Patrol, 2020 model, 71,000 kms, all set up for towing, electric brake controller, Ceramic Coating, Promaxx exhaust, rear cargo protection and more.
Jayco 17'6 Poptop 2018 (model 17.55-8 OB JD) sleeps 2 dual solar panels, twin agm batteries, 3 water tanks, Vantec coating, 3000Watt inverter and more
Price: \$115,000
Email: kimclampett2@gmail.com



FOR SALE

Motorhome Imported from the U.S. and converted to RHD in 2000. Rear mounted Car 3208 and an Alison Auto Drive this full fibreglass bodied, 9.5 Ton Beauty. Electric dash shows 4200 on the rebuilt (in U.S) engine. 22L/100km on a 1500 trip All new brakes and airbags in 2022. Current C.O.I until 7- 2026. Gas cert on the 23.7.2025. Front mounted 6.5 KVA Genset. Interior is very comfortable and crisp, and in top condition. Many more extras and inclusions.
Price: \$90,000 ono
Email: ts Holden@bigpond.com



FOR SALE

2022 NewGen semi off-road caravan Single beds. The inside of the van is in light airy colors giving a nice holiday feel. All the usual inclusions of a new van as listed and or pictured. Easily comparable to a new van. Priced to sell but inspect and make an offer. Full length awning and shade screens on 1 end and 1 side. Much more.
Price: \$55,000 ONO
Ph: 0429 334 384



FOR SALE

2019 Universal Explorer series 214 Has had little use, stored undercover. Dedicated fridge wire connected via Anderson plug. Auto sway and Safety Dave reversing camera with electric brakes. Cassette toilet and separate shower can be closed off with a sliding door for privacy and a top loading washing machine is also concealed in the cabinetry. 2 freshwater tanks and 1 greywater tank. Solar panels on the roof feeding into two deep cycle batteries.
Email: gec21144@gmail.com



FOR SALE

1995 Mitsubishi Canter campertruck 4x4. Fully refurbished, only traveled 224,000 kl, drive on car licence. Located Pictou 2571 NSW
Price: \$75,000
Call John on 0425 224 228 for details.



FOR SALE

2023 Mars Endurance Lifestyle Camper Trailer Set up in minutes – push a button to open trailer – blow up tent – blow up annexe. No poles – no pegs Featuring an electronic air blow-up tent and annexe, queen size bed, slide-out BBQ kitchen, TV, and more – this camper is ready to roll and already registered through to April 2026!
Price: \$25,000
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FOR SALE

Jeep Wrangler JK SWB (2010) 3.8 ltr petrol engine 6 speed manual Rego til 9/3/26 Speedo: 167,952 kms Tinted windows, LED headlights with LED lightbar, 'Tough Dog' lift kit w/ adjustable shock absorbers & steering dampener, Snorkel: AEV. Tow bar: 750 kg & more. Pro-Tow Predator A frame system, complete with tow bar hitch RVbrake3 remote braking system Protect-a-Tow stone guard device
Price: \$19,500 ONO
Email: w.d.medlam@gmail.com



FOR SALE

2012 Suzuki Grand Vitara stow master Aframe. Auto 2 inch lift kit roof rack awning (with Tent) rod tube. All usual Suzuki features Tow bar.
Email: chris.oilswellness@gmail.com



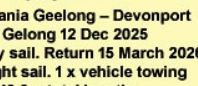
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Suzuki Ignis 2024 Registration until 30th Oct 2025. Bought specifically to tow behind Motor Home. Fully set up and ready to go. Ignis has Android auto and apple care p lay, fully reverse camera.
Email: granadino98@gmail.com



FOR SALE

Spirit of Tasmania Geelong – Devonport return. Depart Gelong 12 Dec 2025 0830-1900, Day sail. Return 15 March 2026 1845-0600, Night sail. 1 x vehicle towing high caravan, 13.6m total length From Gelong. Accommodation, 2 adults x 2 recliner seats From Devonport. Accommodation, 2 adults x inside private cabin \$2,819 (incl. \$50 name change fee)
Ph. 0411 512 513



FOR SALE

Concept Innovation Caravan 670. Yr 2021 Semi Off Road. Sleeps 2 in exc cond Vantec treatment type Exterior & Interior. Custom made Annexe, 188ltr fridge/freezer. Swift series cooker 3gas electric stove, grill and range hood. Full bathroom ensuite. Washing machine, BMPRO Solar and battery management system. Single 170W Solar panel. 110AH Chassis mounted battery. 2x 95ltr water tanks 1x90ltr grey water tank. Cupboard space galore.
Price: \$65,000
Email: patriciarayson@gmail.com



CLASSIFIEDS

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2007 Winnebago Longreach Motorhome
95,000 Kms well maintained many extras including DP chip, 2001 fuel tank air bags, front and rear auto satellite antenna, 600w solar lithium batteries, full canvass and shade cloth annex, Aussie traveller anti flappers plus awning bows Asking \$157,500 prepared to negotiate. Email: loughheadmichael@gmail.com



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Toyota Land Cruiser VX wagon and Regency "Town and Country" 22 foot caravan. Both as new. Van is special 3 room model with many unseen before options. No expense spared yr 2024. Oodles of storage. Big chassis and independent suspension. Used only once. Available for \$135k. Buy now for \$255k for the pair and save \$15,000. Email: foreverabundant@yahoo.com



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Combo Caravan & SUV 2020 Jayco Journey Tourer 18:55-3 JY-MY 2020. 40,000km. Solar, Leather coffee lounge, full Kitchen, Washing machine, full size Frig, gas oven, O/H Bed Fans, Reversing Camera, wheel lock, unused Jayco waterproof cover. Holden Colorado Trailblazer 2020 60,000km Combo Deal \$105,000 will consider split sale. Both only Highway Km's Email: barbaras@sealabs.com.au



FOR SALE

Seitz Heki 2 hatch parts. 2 internal screens and blinds: \$250 each Clear perspex dome cover. 960 x 655 covering area: \$350 1 x 3 kw Wren air command AC + heater: \$450 Email: scetts57@gmail.com



HELP WANTED

LINDSAY POINT, VIC

We are seeking a Mechanic to assistant us with our upcoming almond harvest. This position will commence in February 2026 for approximately 8-12 Weeks. Basic welding skills are highly desirable. This is potentially a reoccurring position for the right applicant. 20 minutes from Renmark SA. [Click here.](#)

GOODIWINDI, QLD

Truck drivers wanted for harvest, Goondiwindi Area. Advantageous if you have chaser bin and auger experience. Start around mid to late October for 2-3 weeks. Above award hourly rate paid. Free power and water available on site. [Click here.](#)

RAVENSTHROPE, WA

Individual or couple wanted to join our small team on a temporary basis of 2 to 4 months at Green Haven Tourist Park. A powered site with water and a gas bottle is supplied in return for assisting the permanent camp host. The role involves integrating with guests, registering guests twice a week, organizing recycle and rubbish bins and some ground work. [Click here.](#)

LOCKHART, NSW

Truck driver with MC- tipper experience wanted. Power/water site provided. The role would include carting grain from the paddock to our on farm storage facility (20 000t). Above award rate hourly pay (happy to accommodate 'flexible' payment options if so required). 8hour shifts ok, happy for you to do longer if you like. Start mid Nov. [Click here.](#)

JULIA CREEK REGION, QLD

Caretaker couple required for Cattle Property. One above award wage position that can be shared between a couple. Lovely fully furnished and air-conditioned cottage. Start end of Oct to at least Apr 2026. [Click here.](#)



CASUAL HARVEST WORKERS

Hiring for our 2026 pistachio harvest:

- Harvest Maintenance Hands
- Truck Drivers (HC & LF Licences Required)
- Harvest Machinery Operators

Approximately 3-5 weeks work typically starting late February (exact timing seasonal). Harvest sets require two operators, great opportunity for couples wanting to work together. Caravan parking with basic amenities as well as double and single ensuite rooms available on application and at no charge. Above award pay rates offered. Located in Robinvale, Victoria.

Email enquiries to cmvfarms.robinvale@cmv.com.au

A DIVISION OF CMV GROUP



KINGSTON ON MURRAY, SA

Vintage MC Truck Drivers wanted. Role includes carting grapes from our Vineyards to Winery safely whilst to adhering to booking deadline, Maintaining equipment to a high standard, other general responsibilities. Role is 3 Feb - 18 April, 2026. Competitive wages. [Click here](#)

MIDWEST WA

Farm sitter experienced with stock wanted from first wk of Jan 2026 through to second wk of March, 2026. There is, for the right person employment available on farm also for this period of time. 35km from Three Springs, with iga, butcher and hardware. Coast is 90km away. [Click here.](#)

ONGERUP, WA

Harvest Help Wanted – Groundperson Role (Oct–Dec, Ongerup, WA) We're looking for a reliable, hands-on person to join us for harvest from October to December in the Ongerup area. The role includes: Assisting with loading trucks, Shifting field bins and gear, General support with harvest logistics. Flexible hours – 3 – 4 days/week is ideal, \$30–\$35/hour depending on experience. [Click here.](#)



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MISSION BEACH, N QLD

Caretaker/host couple wanted at Tranquility Hideaway. We are looking for a couple that has previous hosting experience and that can manage guest check in's, oversee the cleaning and general house keeping. We also have acres and acres of mowing, gardening and building projects all over the property. A "not so tiny home" can be provided for accommodation, or you are welcome to stay in your own van or camper, or a combination of both. [Click here.](#)

MAITLAND, SA

We're after a friendly, reliable HC driver (Nov–Dec 2025) to help with harvest on our Yorke Peninsula farm. You'll be driving a Mack rigid tipper with quad dog, carting wheat, barley and lentils to Maitland or Ardrossan silos. Casual work, weather-dependent hours, and good rates (casual or contractor). Caravan parking and bathroom facilities available on-farm. You'll need an HC licence, tipper/quadrant dog experience, and a hands-on attitude. [Click here.](#)

MACKAY, QLD

HC Truck Driving positions available Immediate start for three months. [Click here](#)

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GN FRIENDLY CAMPSITES

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOLLEMI ART FARM; WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK, NSW

Private rural property surrounded by the Wollemi National Park. We offer a number of spacious campsites that range from intimate to expansive: enjoy a romantic getaway or bring a bunch of friends. Amenities include three spacious loos and, for the Village Green campsite, an open shed. [Click here](#).

BINGHI STATION; TENTERFIELD, NSW

Outback property set on 4,000 acres of natural granite rock country and untouched overgrowth of lush tea tree bushlands. Explore and discover secret hideouts, swim under a flowing waterfall, enjoy the varied wildlife, or simply relax beneath a million stars in the night sky. Designed for the 4WD enthusiasts, not suited to caravans over 17". Shady sites. [Click here](#)

POLEYS PLACE; BARRINGTON TOPS, NSW

A restful retreat situated on the banks of the Barrington River, this scenic campground offers camping along 1km stretch of pristine river frontage, amongst beautiful shady river oaks, willows and bottle brush trees, where you can spend your days adventuring, relaxing in the river or by your campfire. [Click here](#)

NORTHERN TERRITORY

TUMBLING WATERS HOLIDAY PARK, NT

Set on 100 acres, nestled among lush tropical gardens, this idyllic tropical oasis is 25 minutes from Darwin near Berry Springs. We offer a range of accommodation options including shady grassed caravan and camping sites and new saltwater pool. [Click here](#)

QUEENSLAND

HAWTHORNE FARM; TEEBAR, QLD

Nine private, mown-grass campsites tucked away along Teebar Creek, Victoria Grace Creek, our billabong, and our picturesque wetland. Each site is completely secluded — no other campers in sight — and available for stays from 2 to 7 nights. Access varies from easy 4WD RV sites to spots perfect for 4WD caravans, camper vans, or pop-up campers. All visitors must be self-contained. [Click here](#)

MOSSMAN GOLF CLUB RV CAMP AREA, QLD

21 Van, RV Sites for fully self-contained campers. Surrounded by Golf Course to the West and Sugar Cane Fields to the East. Free Social Club membership to obtain member Bar Prices & Daily Happy Hour Bar Prices and free internet. [Click here](#)

FOXBAR FALLS CAMP, STANTHORPE, QLD

We offer 500 ha of privately owned bush with mountains large granite rock, cascade waterfalls and lakes. There are 80 sites with toilets hot showers & WFI. Each site has a rock table and fire pit. [Click here](#)

PACIFIC SUN FRIENDS; DONNYBROOK, QLD

We welcome nature enthusiasts to our Clothing Optional Campgrounds located in a hidden peaceful pocket of Donnybrook. We provide two (2) amenity blocks with toilets & hot showers. [Click here](#)

NORMAMAY DOWNS FARM-STAY; BUNDABERG, QLD

Wake up to the gentle sounds of birds, breathe in the fresh country air, and relax as time slows down around you. During your stay, experience the best of both worlds — the serenity of farm life. Price: \$25/ per RV. [Click here](#)

MULGOWIE HALL CAMP GROUNDS, QLD

Campsites with views up the Valley to Mount Castle. Relax under the trees and enjoy the beauty of the nearby farmland. Shaded, grassed campsites that are powered or non powered, with amenities. Rates are \$25 per night powered site and \$20 per night unpowered site. Dogs on a leash are welcome. [Click here](#)

STANDOWN PARK; GYMPIE, QLD

Nestled on 18 lush acres beside Toolara Pine Forest. Beautiful gardens, quiet and safe surrounds with plenty of open space and is a clean, relaxed and unique getaway experience with all your amenities and extensive camp kitchen. [Click here](#)

RIVERSIDE BURRUM HEADS; QLD

Offers a traditional camping experience. Campfires, pet friendly, flushing toilets, hot showers, heaps of space, beautiful scenery, wildlife, fish and launch your tinny/kayak. [Click here](#)

GOOMBURA VALLEY CAMPGROUND; SOUTHERN DOWNS, QLD

Located on the Southern Downs and situated on the banks of Dalrymple Creek, we have flat, grassed, shady areas for you to camp in peace. We have powered and unpowered campsites available, most with a firepit. Well behaved pets are welcome. [Click here](#)

WESTERN CREEK CAMPING GROUND; GEORGETOWN, QLD

Quiet, peaceful & relaxing bush setting with plenty of space & unpowered sites suitable for all types of set ups — tents, caravans, motor homes. Generators & campfires are allowed, and pets are welcome. Flushing toilets & hot showers provided for all campers. [Click here](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CAMP NYROCA, WANGARY, SA

A peaceful escape just 20 minutes from Coffin Bay and 40 minutes from Port Lincoln. Free from sand and coastal winds, this tranquil spot is the ideal place to unwind and experience the calm of the Eyre Peninsula. Shared access to recreation hall, camp kitchen, flushing toilets and hot showers are included in your stay! [Click here](#)

COONATTO STATION; FLINDERS RANGES, SA

We are a family owned 14,000 acre sheep and cattle property. Enjoy a picturesque natural spring and plenty of space to enjoy sunrises, sunsets and beautiful night skies. [Click here](#)

KIMBA FREE CAMP, SA

Come meet new friends in our fully equipped multi-award winning, free camp, with stays up to 5 nights. With coin-operated showers, free BBQs, Camp Kitchen, Dump Point, all access amenities, a book swap, and all just outside your chosen site. The Camp has been designed to accommodate vehicles of all sizes and is located within a few minutes' walk of the town centre. [Click here](#)

ALMERTA STATION BUSH CAMPS; FLINDERS RANGES, SA

Our unique bush campsites are designed for privacy, allowing guests to immerse themselves in nature while enjoying modern comforts. Each campsite is equipped with essential amenities including long drop toilet and fire pits for an authentic outback experience. Accessible via well-maintained dirt roads suitable for caravans and motorhomes. [Click here](#)

TASMANIA

CRAYFISH CREEK VAN AND CABIN PARK & SPA HOUSE; STANLEY, TAS

The park provides cabin accommodation as well as secluded serviced camp sites. Wander around and enjoy the beaches, shell coves, creeks and forest reserves; all just a short stroll away. [Click here](#)

VICTORIA

LANG LANG CARAVAN PARK; JAM JERRUP, VIC

Located on the Westernport Foreshore opposite French Island Marine National Park. The park is a short drive to Phillip Island and a range of other tourist attractions. An ideal location to relax and enjoy, fishing, boating, and kayaking, or simply sit back in front of a campfire and enjoy the brilliant sunsets. [Click here](#)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GNARALOO STATION; NINGALOO REEF, WA

3 mile camp offers ablution blocks, flushing toilets, unpowered sites and a shop bordering the beach. We are famous for our wildlife, stunning coastline, snorkelling, waves and fishing. [Click here](#)

KARAJINI ECO RETREAT; KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK, WA

Safari-style eco tents, cabins and campsites nestled in beautiful bushland at the edge of Joffre Gorge (Jilingunha), along with a popular outback restaurant and bar, camp bush kitchens with barbecues, a kiosk supplying snacks and souvenirs, guided tours, and access to the Park's walks and hiking trails. Stay under the stars in the campground, or in comfortable glamping accommodation. [Click here](#)

LEWANA COTTAGES CAMPING SITE; BALINGUP WA

We offer campers a rare blend of tranquility, comfort and unspoiled wilderness. The property is adjacent to the Golden Valley Tree Park and is surrounded by jarrah, karri and marri forests. There are a range of facilities to suit every kind of camper. [Click here](#)

LINGA LONGA FARMSTAY PORT GREGORY, WA

1853 Historic site. Over the road from the beach & near to the Pink Lake. Dogs & Motor Bikes Welcome. Hot showers/toilets. On Main coastal road to Kalbarri Good walking tracks/fishing. [Click here](#)

THE CAMP; WAVE ROCK SHORT STAY; HYDEN, WA

Offering 16 large unpowered nature-based camping sites with access to potable water and disability accessible toilet. Pet friendly, Generators permitted between 7am – 9pm, \$25 per night for up to SIX people in ONE vehicle. [Click here](#)

STARGAZERS FOREST HIDEAWAY; PEMBERTON, WA

Rustic ensuite sites are set up for all types of caravans, camper trailers and campers ... large or small. Each site has a hot water rain shower, toilet, barbecue, fire pit, large 6x3 floor mat, and undercover wooden deck space. Pet friendly. [Click here](#)

GLADSTONE BAY; SHARK BAY REGION, WA

No bookings required, Sites always available. Campground open 24/7. Historic site, wilderness camping on foreshore. Flushing toilets, Artesian water on site (not drinking). [Click here](#)