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THE VIEW FROM

# INSIDE

05 | Oct/Nov 2013

**“We are all visitors to this time, this place.  
We are just passing through.  
Our purpose here is to observe, learn, to grow,  
to love ... and then we return home”**

Australian Aboriginal Proverb



**COVER 1968** COVER: Jayco Starcraft with 1968 Holden Monaro, Nambucca Heads NSW.  
Photo Daniel Linnet. [www.linnetfoto.com](http://www.linnetfoto.com)

Above Sunrise at Kinka Beach QLD

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Rod Bruem

**This issue we feature the story of the amazing and industrious ProPERT family. Not only did they design and build clever folding caravans, they also produced luxury cars and nifty kitchen equipment once common in nearly every Australian home.**

As a toddler I remember being given the Ezy Whisk egg beater to keep me occupied and out of trouble and even at that early age being captivated by its ball-driven mechanism. I wasn't alone – apparently Queen Mary was impressed too – as you can read in our story on page 18.

With our economy now so dependent on exporting raw materials and importing finished goods, you can get a little depressed thinking the days are now past when inventive people like the ProPERTs could actually make and sell great things here in Australia.

Certainly there are challenges. In our news pages we revisit the fight by camper trailer manufacturers to stop Chinese imports being passed off as Australian made. Let's hope a change in government can lead to this being finally resolved in the interests of a fair go for all.

But at the same time there is plenty of room for optimism. Spending time away in a Jayco Starcraft caravan recently made me realise yet again how capable our caravan and RV manufacturers are in terms of building excellent products at an affordable price.

While other countries might produce the best planes, trains or even automobiles, we can surely be proud of the fact we are world leaders when it comes to building the vehicles that go towards making a fantastic holiday!

If you needed a reminder, our profile on wildlife expert Andrew Claridge (p44) is proof yet again just how much there is to see and enjoy, without having to roam too far from home

**Rod Bruem**  
editor@timetoroam.com.au.



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**Phone:** +612 9695 7749

We welcome letters and contributions from our readers.

**Enquiries:** editor@timetoroam.com.au

**Sales Director**

Phillip Terry

m 0425 255 495

e phill@timetoroam.com.au

**Editor:** Rod Bruem

**Associate Editor:** Renate Lincoln

**Contributing Editor:** Seb Stephens

**Contributors:** Michael Cusack, Richard Robertson, Daniel Linnet, Ruth Morris, Kelly Zammit, Karen Goldrick, David Cook, Susan and Keith Hall.

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# Abbott to be tackled on cheap trailer imports

**The new Federal Government will face immediate pressure to crack down on cheap Chinese camper trailers being passed off as Australian made.**

The firm responsible for protecting the official Australian Made labelling system says it believes importers are skirting around existing rules and confusing camper trailer buyers.

Australian Made CEO Ian Harrison says he will be seeking urgent talks with the Abbott Government's industry and Small Business Ministers to try to change current rules.

According to Mr Harrison, camper trailer importers can legally apply the Australian made logo to imported trailers today, because under current rules they can argue more than 50 percent of the cost of their units have been incurred in Australia, or the imported units have been "substantially transformed" here.

"Given the high costs of labour, transport and marketing here, it is easy to get inside that 50 percent threshold," Mr Harrison said.

"After being lobbied by the Camper Trailer Guild we went and checked out the companies causing concern and it is our understanding they meet the requirements as they stand and their trailers can be legally described as Australian made.

"But if you ask people buying camper trailers if they really understand what the Australian Made logo means and what they are buying and the answer is they do not."

Mr Harrison said he'd seen examples of trailers with "shocking quality lightweight canvas" being passed off as Australian made.

"What we're most upset about is the Australian Made country of origin logo is a premium brand and should be accorded the right level of importance," he said.

Camper trailer imports is one of six key areas of concern the Australian Made organisation wants the new Government to address, although Mr Harrison says any tightening of the current rules to better inform buyers was ultimately a matter for the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC), which to date had dragged its heels.

"We need to get the ACCC on board. Ultimately the ACCC determines the guidelines and it has been the ACCC's view that it is not resourced enough to develop new guidelines."

Mr Harrison said he was keen to win back several Australian camper trailer manufacturers which had stopped using the Australian Made logo in protest, preferring to use the Australian Camper Guild logo instead.



## Licence to tow

Australia's Caravan Council is pushing for the introduction of a licensing system to help reduce towing-related accidents. CCA general manager Colin Young says action is needed to weed out inexperienced drivers and he believes a voluntary licensing system should be the first step. Mr Young says he is discussing the proposal with insurers who he hoped would back it in order to reduce claims and premiums.

"Hopefully they will welcome this introduction and also provide, or approve, suitable training courses and both theoretical and practical tests in order for their clients to obtain their endorsement," Mr Young said.

## Watch out for caravan scam

Police are warning people to beware of a possible cross-Tasman caravan selling scam.

New Zealand police say a caravan was advertised for sale well below market value, and potential buyers are asked to send the money to an overseas bank account.

They say similar ads have appeared in newspapers around Australia and they are continuing investigations.

"When things seem too good to be true they more than likely are to be too good to be true." NZ Police Senior Sergeant Jason McCoy said.

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# Caravan builder collapses as industry adjusts to Gen Y demands

**Australian caravan buyers are increasingly looking for more compact luxury vans, according to dealers and industry analysts.**

The shift away from much bigger vans is already having repercussions across the industry, with a second Victoria-based manufacturer collapsing in recent months.

Workers at the Campbellfield plant of Aussie Wide Caravans were made redundant in September. It follows the collapse of nearby Creative Caravans as reported in Issue Four of Time to Roam.

Receivers appointed to oversee the latest insolvency, Grant Thornton, say the industry is becoming more competitive while at the same time younger buyers are choosing smaller, less expensive caravans.

Stuart Livingstone, Chief Executive Officer of the SA Caravan and Camping Industries Association says the latest industry analysis shows Gen Y buyers, the kids of baby boomers, are now following in the footsteps of their parents and entering the market in a big way.

"This age group is projected to increase by more than half a million people by 2021, driving a decade of major growth in caravanning and camping experiences in Australia," Mr Livingstone said.

"Research indicates that affordability is a key issue in this cohort with increasing numbers seeking value for money holidays through camping, caravanning and caravan park cabin stays."

The shift in buyer sentiment is already being felt at caravan dealerships. Stewart Cameron of Hinterland Caravans says the trend is now for vans below the 20 foot mark.

Following the collapse of Creative and Aussie Wide Caravans, Mr Cameron predicts further industry consolidation as manufacturers come to terms with tight margins.

"There are 105 caravan manufacturers within a five kilometre radius of

## Caravan Nation – Key facts

- Australia's caravan and RV manufacturing industry has enjoyed a record run, producing more than 60,000 units over the past three years
- Traditional caravans account for almost 55 per cent of the market, pop-tops 24 per cent, camper trailers 14 per cent and motorhomes represent around five per cent
- Over nine million people participated in caravanning and camping experiences in Australia in 2012, representing 13 per cent of the total domestic tourism market.

Source: CCIA SA



Stewart Cameron, Director  
– Hinterland Caravans



SA Caravan and Camping Industries  
Association CEO Stuart Livingstone

Campbellfield and a lot of them are reasonably small family-run businesses."

"I believe we will see more of them amalgamate in the years ahead and combine forces and this will be good for the industry.

It's a view backed by industry analyst firm IBISWorld which is predicting moderate industry growth at the rate of 2.3 per cent over the next five years, generating \$2.65 billion.

"Capital intensity is at a low level in the Trailer and Caravan Dealers industry in Australia, due to the high level of labour

intensity. For every dollar invested in capital, \$9.14 is spent on labour. In other words, investment requirements for plants, machinery and equipment are low in the industry.

"Higher consumer sentiment and disposable incomes will benefit the industry over the next five years," it says.

"The ageing population will also result in greater customer numbers as more people enter the main consumer demographic (those aged over 50)."



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## Prison Caravans

Victorian caravan manufacturers could be the winners from a State Government proposal to release low risk prisoners into work gangs and house them in caravans.

Corrections Victoria believes caravans could be the answer to help the state deal with overcrowding in existing jails.

It says only prisoners near the end of their terms serving time for non-violent and non-sexual crimes would be considered.

It's not known whether the Department believes the prisoners would be housed in caravan parks.

A spokesman said the idea needed a lot more work before it would be taken forward.

## Jail for drunken park rampage

A drunk driver who ran over a family sleeping in their tent at a NSW camp ground last year has been given a two-year jail sentence.

The 20 year old man admitted to drinking a large quantity of alcohol before getting behind the wheel of his car at Kendall's Beach Caravan Park, Kiama on September 1 2012.

All four members of the family were seriously injured after being run over car and dragged some eight metres through the park.

## Iconic Gippsland park reopens

Victoria's Ninety Mile Beach Seaspray Caravan Park has been reopened after being moved away from sensitive sand dunes.

A popular summer holiday park for nearly 80 years, Seaspray Park was relocated as environmentalists believed it was adding to dune erosion and increasing the risk of flooding in high tides.



The Vic State Government contributed more than \$4 million towards the relocation.

## Long-term stayers continue to battle

Local councils are continuing to battle long-term caravan park residents across the country in an effort to free up spaces for tourists.

In South Australia, residents of Brighton Caravan Park have rejected an offer of \$8000 relocation expenses offered by Holdfast Bay Council to clear the beachside location for tourism redevelopment.

Residents Committee secretary Marilyn

Pearson said 24 of the 27 remaining tenants planned to refuse the council's offer because "it will not cover their investment"

In NSW, a similar battle is brewing at Stockton Beach Holiday park at Newcastle where the council has issued a plan to "reconfigure the park to ensure that yield is maximised and profits applied to the maintenance and enhancement of the Newcastle foreshore reserves".

Long-term site holders have complained to the Newcastle Herald saying, "it's all about getting rid of ordinary Novocastrians to make way for rich Sydneysiders".

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Above and below: Modern Caravans on display in Perth in the 1950s along with a 1970s Modern-branded motor home.

## Modern Mystery solved

Our story on WA-built Modern Caravans drew a huge response and was followed up by Radio 6PR in Perth, prompting many calls from people eager to share information on the company.

It turns out the story of the man behind



Modern Caravans, Peter Fomiatti is as remarkable as the classic vehicles he built.

Born in Italy in 1900, Peter Fomiatti came to Australia as a boy and started out as a market gardener in the Wanneroo area.

After the war, he had the idea of using the chassis from surplus war vehicles to make caravans and the business grew from there.

In its later years, Modern was best known for its huge caravan hire business, said to have one of the world's largest fleets. The manufacturing plant moved from Tuart Hill to Bassendean, specialising in building mobile units for mining exploration ventures rather than caravans for leisure.

Former Modern Caravans employee, Keith Plozza is one of many who contacted Time to Roam after hearing about the story.

Keith began his career with Peter Fomiatti just as Modern Caravans was starting out in the early 1950s.

He writes; "Peter was a generous and well respected man. He financed most of the workers' vehicles and he was only too happy to offer any sort of help they needed. He treated all the workers as family and the whole business felt very family- orientated. Often, on Fridays when we knocked off, he would put a keg on and his wife would make up sandwiches so we could have a few beers after work. By the way, Peter gave me my first job and I will always be very grateful. Peter died aged 92."

We look forward to sharing more information and photos on WA's Modern Caravan story in an upcoming issue.

**Rod Bruem**  
editor@timetoroam.com.au

## THAT'S NO RECORD, MAYBE THIS IS

Re your Coronet Caravan review story (TTR Aug /Sept) "Heritage Brand, Quality Marque".

More particularly I refer to the second paragraph which I quote, "it's not far from where Millards have been built for almost 70 years, possibly holding the longevity for all Australia's caravan brands".

I believe you should get in touch with Roma Caravans of Campbellfield VIC. They have been building caravans since 1928. More remarkable is this company has been owned by the same family from the start. That clocks up to 85 years, though I would be hesitant to suggest they are yet

the record holders for longevity. There is a warning here about making unsubstantiated assumptions in print. Otherwise, Time to Roam is an excellent magazine.

**Alan Bebee,**  
Traralgon, VIC

***We stand corrected and suitably chastised thanks Mr Bebee. We look forward to profiling the Roma Caravan story in an upcoming issue and wonder can any other company beat this incredible 85 year record? - Ed.***



**time to roam australia welcomes letters, photos and contributions from our readers on just about any subject that relates to caravanning and camping .**  
editor@timetoroam.com.au



### SA'S PIECE OF MOTORHOME HISTORY

My wife and I come from Nuriootpa where we have an interesting old motor home built in 1928 (pictured). The first one built by this builder is now at Goolwa. One of the family who went travelling in it in 1928 (now in her 90's) has some wonderful stories of travelling in the outback with her father by compass and no roads. She tells a wonderful story of going to Goolwa in the first one with her family for holidays, where her father sold it and they all came home on a train. We were given a complimentary copy of Time to Roam by the Port Elliot Caravan Park in South Australia. I must commend you for your down to earth articles and for providing info for less expensive camping vehicles and options. Your advertisers materials are also very informative. We own a 1992 Toyota Hiace camper that was an original Brits of the 90's and still in great condition with 290,000 kms under its belt. We have a lot of fun. Keep up the good work.

**Best wishes**

**Richard and Nikki, Nuriootpa SA**

*Richard, we look forward to visiting Nuriootpa and learning more about this amazing piece of history - Ed*



### WORKHORSE STABLED AT MUSEUM

I enjoyed your recent VW Kombi edition of time to Roam. The VW Kombi was a workhorse for the PMG and later Telecom in the 1970s, with many hundreds put to work helping build and maintain the phone network. Today the Telstra Museum has one in its collection (pictured) which we hope to restore and put on display at some stage in the future. History buffs would enjoy a visit to Telstra museums in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with full details including opening hours available on the Telstra.com website.

**Stefan Nowak, Telstra Museum, Hawthorn VIC**

## Loving the real life stories

We picked up a copy of Time to Roam Australia while staying in Darlington Beach Caravan Park at Arrawarra. It was great to read articles about older style caravans and Kombis.

The stories were real life and a great change from other more commercial magazines that market high end caravans when there are lower cost options for those that haven't had a lotto win. I don't know how you do so many outlets, but I wish you every success as it is a great magazine.

We gave our magazines to friends, but we wished we'd kept them as it would be nice to have a full set as a keepsake.

I have a 1978 Viscount caravan we travel in on short trips. We renovated it to suit what we need. For us it is great and admired by those who have invested many more dollars and gained little more satisfaction from their caravan travel experience..

**Doug Drever,**

**Bribie Island QLD**

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George and Kelton Wilson, farmers turned circus cooks

**MANY RETIRES HAVE PLANS TO WORK AND TRAVEL AUSTRALIA. FARMERS FROM COWRA NSW, **GEORGE AND KELTON WILSON**, RAISED MORE THAN A FEW EYEBROWS WHEN THEY JOINED THE TRAVELLING SILVERS CIRCUS. KELTON TAKES UP THE STORY....**

**It was the 16th December 2006. The harvest was over, we were heartily sick of dry weather and feeding sheep. Had caravan. Started thinking about travelling.**

My husband and I had often talked about looking after other peoples' farms while their owners had a break. I looked up the positions vacant section in the Land newspaper and there was this advert; 'COOK WANTED – OWN CARAVAN – must be able to travel – CIRCUS'.

I thought will I or wont I, then, why not? I phoned. Yes, the job was still vacant, but we are 63 and 65, "oh just what we want," they said.

The very next morning we were up and off to the outskirts of Melbourne (an 8 hour drive) for our interview. We got the job. Then it was back home to break the news to the family.

The daughter-in-law looked at us and said, "Oh Granny, what will we tell our friends?"

The son just grinned and said, "Go for it". Our daughter and her husband could only laugh, while our grand-daughters asked to come with. Friends reacted with amazement and disbelief, although when they saw we were genuine they also had a laugh and wished us well.

We didn't have much time to worry because we had to be there by December

23rd. So we packed the caravan and headed south into the unknown two days before Christmas.

On the trip down I couldn't stop thinking about what my mother would have said. Dad loved rodeos and circuses and always took me and my brother along whenever the Big Top was in town. Mum refused to go because she thought they were dirty, grimy places where only the lowest worked. "Only naughty kids run away and join the circus". Nevertheless, my brother and I loved it all.

We joined the circus as it was touring the Mornington Peninsula and started becoming familiar with the set up.

The Big Top was already set up ready

to commence on Boxing Day. We met the Secretary who showed us where to park our van and the van we'd be using for the catering.

We started work immediately giving the kitchen a good scrub up and tidy up. At about 6pm the secretary landed over with a tray of chops and said "could you feed the boys".

The Christmas meal was cooked by the owners (I did cook the turkey) for all the staff and performers and it was excellent.

We didn't cook for the artists as they came from all round the world and had different food requirements – so they cooked for themselves.

I cooked for up to 13 workers – there was one chap who had been with the Circus for 26 years, the other boys were mostly backpackers. During the 7 months we were with the Circus we had 21 different boys from Israel, Turkey, Ireland, Scotland, Germany and a few Aussies. I can honestly say they never grumbled or complained and never said a thing I could take offence at. These boys did all the necessary jobs and were an excellent lot of young people – most had plans to eventually return home and finish their education.

Circus work was hungry work and boy could they eat! One young bloke always ran to the van to be there first, ate a huge meal, then sat and waited for everyone else to finish so he could clean up what was left.

Another lad once saw me put half a cup potato in the bin and said, "please don't throw anything out; I'll find someone to eat it". He used to eat six Weetbix plus a litre of milk for breakfast followed by four slices of toast and jam. He came on the lean side but I'm proud to say left two and a half months later shining. Breakfast was a fun highlight of the day, when all were talking about the mishaps both good and bad from the night before.

The artists, if they wanted to work in Australia, sent a video out of their performance and were selected on merit if their act was needed at that time. They then made their way out and started immediately.

There are things we take for granted when a circus rolls into town but it's all much more complex than it appears.

Firstly someone has to go ahead and →



## Need a better TV or Mobile reception in your van for your travels?



distribute flyers and drum up publicity around the next town and district. Power and water has to be connected by the qualified people and very often a large bond has to be paid in case of any damage to property or grounds. In wet boggy weather it is hard to keep the grounds perfect.

If the circus is near a residential area, people living nearby have to be contacted and often there's a curfew at night.

When it comes time to move and pull down the tent it takes four to five hours.

When we moved there were 30 odd vehicles all needing drivers. It was quite a parade. Arriving at the next town, it usually took another two days to have everything up and going.

If you think taking a caravan to Tasmania is quite a feat, imagine taking a whole circus!

We loaded up the ferry and crossed Bass Straight spending 13 weeks in some of the Island State's most beautiful locations, always close to water.

We then came back to Melbourne and

spent another 15 weeks at locations in and around Melbourne and Geelong.

Sadly we had to leave at that point. My father-in-law wasn't well and I don't think he ever did get over the shock of us going 'off to join the circus'. It was most embarrassing for the poor old chap.

We have no regrets and only great memories of our seven months in the circus. It gave us an insight to how other people live and an appreciation that other businesses have their ups and downs, just like farmers. 📍

## Tips for working travellers

Joining the circus may not be your cup of tea, but there are plenty of casual and seasonal jobs out there for people planning to work and travel their way around Australia.

Workabout Australia is an online site connecting travellers with casual, seasonal and temporary work. Marketing Manager Justine Williams has these top 3 tips for first timers.

### 1. Travel with the season

The most important part of the process starts before you even leave your driveway. If you are looking for seasonal work, which can include harvest positions or anything in the tourism industry, you need to know where and when the season is 'on'. This is when the most jobs will be available to you – there is no point travelling to an area out of season, as you may just be stuck there with no prospects

There are many types of work available for those who are travelling – whether you want to stay in one spot for just a month or two, or something longer term. Of course there are your traditional fruit picking, packing and harvesting jobs, but for some, the thought of hours of physical labour can be daunting.

#### Other options include:

- working in caravan parks during the peak tourist season (in anything from



Warren and Justine Williams,  
Workabout Australia

reception and administration through to gardening, maintenance or cleaning)

- farm sitting or caretaking during the 'off season'
- working as a kitchen hand or cook
- bus and coach driving
- labouring and trades
- sales and office work

### 2. Get your affairs in order

It goes without saying that it's best to get your personal finances sorted before leaving.

Many jobs may need you to have particular licences, police checks, tickets or authorisations. For example, for bus or coach driving in Queensland, you generally need a special licence as well as

a Queensland Driver Authorisation (and possibly a Working with Children check if you are expecting to take on school bus routes). If you are looking to work in reception at a caravan park, it is a good idea to be trained in the "Reservation Management System" (or RMS) used by many parks to manage their bookings.

This is where planning is important. If you have worked out where you want to go, and the type of work available there, you can get any required licences or tickets before you leave home.

### 3. Allow plenty of time to plan

Make sure you know what type of work is available in the areas you want to visit and at what times of the year. Don't turn up to a town and expect to get a job straight away just because it is peak season as often there can be an influx of other travellers doing the same thing.

What's most important is to keep yourself open to opportunities don't just look at positions that you may have been doing for years. Don't forget why you are travelling – to explore the country, meet new people and most importantly, have fun!

**Workabout Australia was founded in 1996 and has built up a network of contacts for employment opportunities in all states and territories.**

**Go to [www.workaboutaustralia.com.au](http://www.workaboutaustralia.com.au) for more information on how to explore Australia and get paid along the way.**





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# From little things, big things grow

## THE AMAZING PROPERTS, A FAMILY OF GREAT INVENTORS

**If you grew up in Australia in the 20th century, chances are your life has been made easier by a Propert.**

Folding Caravans are one of many treasured products designed and built by this inventive family.

John and Emma Propert emigrated from England in 1877 and produced 11 children including several sons with a knack for design and innovation.

Thomas and Albert Propert trained in coach building in Orange NSW and established a motor body business in the inner Sydney suburb of Newtown in 1910. In the years when Australian car manufacturing consisted of building bodies on imported

engines and chassis, Propert established a reputation for the very best luxury vehicles.

Perhaps the most successful Propert son was Charles, who designed and built kitchenware over many decades.

He started out making irrigation equipment and is credited with inventing and patenting the common backyard rose sprinkler, still manufactured and sold in their hundreds today.

Propert became a household name when it started making all manner of kitchen implements including flour sifters and chip cutters. In the 1970s Propert was Australia's leading brand of kitchen and bathroom scales. By far the most successful product was a ball-driven egg beater, trademarked as the Ezy Whisk.

In the days before electric beaters, the Ezy Whisk was the market-leader and exported world-wide.

Adverts in the 1950s boasted they had even been endorsed by royalty. Apparently Queen Mary was most impressed when she was shown an Ezy Whisk while visiting a London Expo one year. Whether Her Royal Highness had any idea what the domestic appliance was used for is doubtful.

For ordinary Australians without electric appliances or domestic help, the Ezy Whisk was an indispensable kitchen aid. Charles Propert and his son Bertram manufactured more than a quarter of a million egg beaters a year in the early 1950s, reason why so many are still around and used even today.

Thomas Propert and his son Thomas Junior



# PROPERT "PATENT" FOLDING CARAVAN



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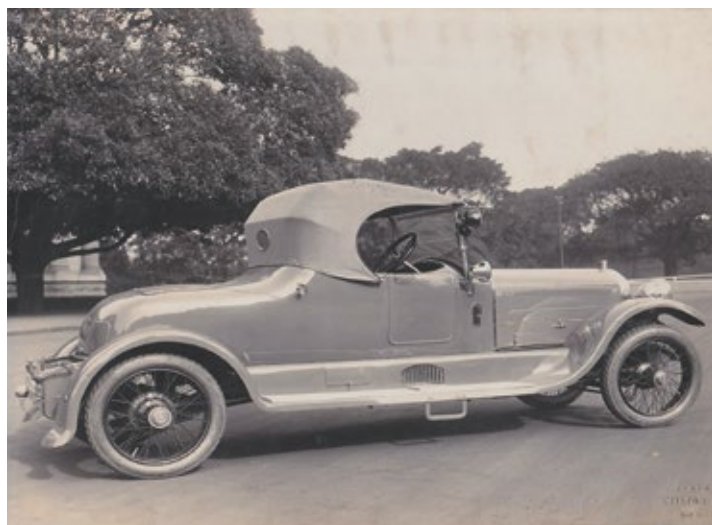
The efficiency of any method of road travel, depends upon a quick setup for rest and a carefully compact fold for travel. With these features this caravan offers advantages unobtainable elsewhere. It is unique and brilliant with several features. Petrol goes further, speed difference scarcely noticeable. Little or no weight on tow car, will pass under low bridges. When at home it can be stored under low cover in a small space and opened up if required to take care of the unexpected guest.

Manufactured by  
**PROPERT GOLD SEAL PRODUCTS**  
 771 OLD SOUTH HEAD ROAD, VAUCLUSE, N.S.W.  
 PHONE: FU 2692

Complimentary descriptive editorial in April issues of  
 "MODERN MOTOR" and "WHEELS" and June issues "OUTDOORS & FISHING"

Pictured: Some of the many fine vehicles finished at the Propert Motor Body Works, famous for building some of Sydney's most luxurious cars of that time.

Left: A Propert folding caravan leaflet from the 1950s, Above: Two of the Propert kitchenware company's best sellers, the ball-driven Ezy Whisk and flour sifter.



More of the fine Proport vehicles and an amazing look inside the Newtown bodyworks factory

were behind the Proport Trailways Products division which grew out of the motor body business in Newtown and began building caravans behind a house in the upmarket suburb of Vacluse in the late 1940s.

Success came after the war as more families took to the road and Thomas saw the need for a light-weight van that didn't require a big American V8 to tow it.

The Proport Folding Caravan is yet another ingenious design. Even today it's hard not to

marvel at how the three shells fold out of a box trailer to make the vehicle double in size.

Entry is through a rear door and inside is light and airy, with seven windows including a skylight.

There's a double bed over the raised area up front, a kitchen down one side including sink and stove. A table is hinged on the wall opposite and below there is a bench which can be made into a third bed, albeit for a very short person.

While it has become known as the folding caravan, in some ways it has more in common with today's popular camper trailers. In fact the Proports were originally sold as "trailer cabins". Today's camper trailer owners would surely marvel at how quick and easy the Proport is to set up.

The Proport folding mechanism was first patented in 1952, with subsequent patents

→ continued page 22

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Above: A ribbon being affixed to the ProPERT display at the 'Australian World Fair' – believed to be in the 1950s. Note the folding caravans, both open and shut in the background. The rare 'non folding' ProPERT caravan is very similar to the 'Pink ProPERT' that has drawn great admiration at the National Museum of Australia (below)

taken out in New Zealand, US and England. Other folding caravans built in Australia at the time include the "Smal-a-Van" made in Unley, South Australia and the "Foldvan" by C.T. Woods of West Preston, Victoria.

Thomas ProPERT Senior passed away in 1969 and production continued in Vacluse until

1972 – the folding caravan era coming to an end just as the pop top caravan age had begun.

It is testament to the ProPERT family's record of great Australian design that ProPERT caravans are today part of the collections of both the National Museum of Australia and the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. ♦



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as it has one means along one side where water flows. There is a full size covered shower, kitchen sink with a drain board of one end. Portable stove, sink, etc. suitable for food storage and receptacles for other articles.

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There is standing room in part of the interior. "Ship Shape" is the description because items are held in their best advantage, providing a place for most personal belongings. There are many other little features that make for comfort and convenience but words and pictures alone cannot tell the whole story. Come and see this caravan for yourself as there are only some of the things that comprise this entirely new creation. With special interest to tourists, hunters, fishermen or game sportsmen, commercial travellers, surveyors, building contractors, itinerants, and many others who have to remain on the job in hot of the way places. This outfit has been invented and placed on the market just to meet this need.

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#### '97 Jayco Westport Pop-Top 14'



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Full oven, microwave oven, 2 single beds, lounge, great layout with annexe...

#### '03 Jayco Heritage 22'



**\$33,990**  
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Prado and Pajero owners!!!... Full ensuite lightweight tourer!!!... separate bedroom, east west bed, gas oven, microwave oven, aircon, L-shaped dining/lounge 150 ltr 3 way fridge.

#### 2000 Jayco Swan



**\$16,990**  
Tow away

3 way fridge, gas cooker, sink, 1 queen bed and 1 double with 2 convertible lounges, extremely good condition....

#### '11 Jayco Stirling 17.55 Off roader



**\$38,990**  
Tow away

Shower toilet, like new!!!!... aircon, full oven, microwave, full annexe, 15" off road alloy wheels and tyres, 6" a-frame & chassis, off road clearance, over \$50,000 to replace new!!!!...

#### '07 Coromal Princeton 705



**\$42,990**  
Tow away

Prado and Pajero owners!!!!...super lightweight tourer with full ensuite, separate bedroom, air conditioning, full gas oven, microwave oven, cd stereo, east west bed, battery pack, alloy wheels, independent suspension.

#### '06 Jayco Destiny 17.55 Shower/Toilet



**\$29,990**  
Tow away

Tandem axle, fitted with modern furniture, aircon, micro wave oven, stereo, double bed and L shaped lounge & dining...and a full annexe!!!!...

#### '08 Compass Aurora 20'6



**\$39,990**  
Tow away

Club lounge, 6" a-frame and chassis, 4" raiser, separate shower and toilet, full gas oven, ibis air, dual battery set up with solar...

#### 2004 Windsor Seaview 17'6



**\$19,990**  
Tow away

Amazing condition throughout, the interior looks almost brand new!! worth a good look...was \$24990....Factory bonus sale price

#### 08' Trailstar Constellation 24



**\$59,990**  
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Leather club lounge/dining, big kitchen with full gas range and oven, microwave, tv, dvd/cd stereo, aircon, solar, satellite tv dish, 3 water tanks... Current new replacement price is in excess of \$100,000 !!!!...

#### 2005 Coromal Princeton



**\$34,990**  
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## Now meet the ProPERT girls, Ruby and Tammy



L to R: The twin ProPERTs with the Australian-made Morris and Galant, the Morris was Christine's first car, with her since 1964. Top right: The very detailed ProPERT folding caravan brand plate that includes patent numbers and even the factory address in Vaucluse. Below, Some of the Gill's collection of ProPERT kitchenware including the top selling egg beater and bathroom scales from the 1970s. Photos: Phill Terry

**Graeme and Christine Gill have the rare honour of owning and restoring two ProPERT folding caravans.**

It started out as a hobby for the couple when they retired and moved from Canberra back to their hometown of Laurieton NSW. The couple had grown up there, met and married decades ago.

They came to acquire the first ProPERT, now christened Ruby, from a relative of the same name in nearby Wauchope.

"Stored in a farm shed, it was infested with rats and Ruby asked us to take it to the tip, but as we pulled it out we could see it was something special," Chris recalls.

A 1970 model, it took nine months to rebuild and make roadworthy again.

While the van itself was in poor shape,

miraculously, all the original papers that came with it were in perfect order, including the folding instructions.

With that retirement project complete, Graeme soon began looking for something else to do and eventually tracked down another ProPERT needing to be rescued.

"I first heard about it years ago and it was owned by a man in Tamworth called Bob Wall. He was an old bloke in his nineties who lived alone and couldn't get out much. He loved the van and said he kept it on his front lawn because people would stop and come over and talk to him."

After a wait of some years and a few visits to Bob, Graham was finally able to buy the second ProPERT, a Deluxe Fastback from 1954. Now called Tammy in honour of Tamworth, the fact it was built pre-1970, 16 years before Ruby,





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(top left) The folding caravan still in pieces before restoration. (right) Gwen (Propert) Nossiter, one of many Propert descendants who take great pride in the family's legacy. Time to Roam is very grateful to Gwen and other members of the Propert family for their assistance in compiling this history and sharing their amazing photographs.

meant the Gills now had a van they could take to vintage caravan rallies.

"She was in really bad shape when we brought her home. I took out 23 kilos of metal bars and bolts which Bob had put in over the years just to hold it together."

When the restoration was completed, Chris and Graham sent photos to Bob, the proud former owner in Tamworth.

"He really loved the van and his family said he kept the photos right by his bedside. They were next to him when he passed away earlier this year," Chris said.

It's obvious Chris and Graeme share Bob's affection for the Propert.

"I just love the shape of them. The design

and the way they open up is amazing. The bloke who designed them was a wizard," Graeme says.

What makes the Gill's collection even more special is the fact they tow the two Aussie-made vans with two small Australian made cars, both with interesting stories of their own.

A rare Australian (Sydney) built 1964 Morris Major was actually Chris's very first car. She saved up the money working in a Laurieton bank and bought it around the same time she started going out with Graham.

The Adelaide-made Chrysler Galant from 1976 was actually the last car bought by

Chris's late grandmother.

Graeme and Christine get a lot of pleasure touring Australia with a combination of all four classic vehicles. Both cars are colour co-ordinated with their matching partner Propert. They also have a good collection of caravan memorabilia from the era including Propert kitchenware.

"If you've got it, use it I say. We've gone as far as outback Queensland with the Galant and all we've ever had to replace is the fuel pump."

"They always draw a crowd when we're travelling," Graeme says, "Lucky the wife and I aren't as robust as we used to be, otherwise we'd never get any privacy." ♦

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IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVE & FIONA HARVEY - SCAMANDER FOREST RESERVE

# The caravan that almost sells itself

**Tested Jayco Starcraft 16-51-3 Report by Rod Bruem**

**AUSTRALIA'S MOST POPULAR BUDGET CARAVAN COMES PACKED WITH SO MANY LUXURIES, IT'S HARD FOR BUYERS TO WALK AWAY**



Daniel Linnet

Sometimes I think I'd be a richer man today if only I'd heeded my father's advice not to waste money on expensive cars when you could get something cheaper that would still get you me from A to B the same way.

That advice could be equally be applied to buying caravans and the phenomenal success of Jayco in Australia shows buyers are crunching the numbers and finding it hard to go past them.

Jayco accounts for more than 40 per cent of all Australian caravan sales and after spending some time in the Starcraft it's easy to see why.

It is so packed with features, the complete package for under \$40,000 almost sells itself.

Today Jayco touches almost every part of the Australian RV market, producing

everything from budget campers and pop tops through to luxury fifth wheelers.

While it's a big range in total, it's also very straightforward. In caravans there is basically two models, the Starcraft and the bigger fiberglass Sterling.

Sterling remains Jayco's biggest seller, but the Starcraft is fast catching up, accounting for approximately 40 per cent of sales – which means 35 a week roll out of Jayco's massive complex at Dandenong.

Starcraft is a heritage brand for Jayco, originally used for popular pop tops back in the nineties, it was resurrected four years ago for new lines of pop tops and caravans.

Aluminium framed and clad caravans have been synonymous with Aussie holidays since they were first mass produced in the mid-1960s, but aside from the basic



Starcraft incorporates many Jayco-designed improvements, note the neat fiberglass cover over the gas bottles, push button hand break and a easy to access water tap on the chassis. Inside, a high-standard of finishes including premium fabrics

construction materials, this Jayco has almost nothing in common with those classic trailblazer models from years gone by.

There are an incredible 32 different models in the Starcraft range ranging from 13ft pop tops up to 22ft luxury off roaders. We tested the single-axle 16 foot model. Its good-sized rear bathroom with separate toilet and shower have made it the second biggest seller in the range. It is relatively easy to manoeuvre and weighing just over 1.7 tonnes, it can be towed by a Falcon, Commodore – or even a classic Monaro.

Jayco has added many of the popular refinements and features developed for the Sterling.

What impresses outside are the auto-style handbrake, the fiberglass streamlined nose cone, the cover that neatly conceals the two LP gas tanks and a decent-sized fully-line boot compartment.

For a budget-priced van there are lots of neat inclusions like an outside water tap on the front chassis and also an external 240v power point. It comes with 14 inch alloy wheels and three good quality tyres, the spare mounted on the back right above the rear bumper. All the tyres are nitrogen-filled which reduces blow outs and make them last as much as 20 per cent longer.

Inside, the Starcraft is air conditioned and fully insulated. The double-glazed Dometic

windows come with concealed blinds that pull up and insect screens that pull down. There's also a skylight above the bed.

The combination of insulation and double glazed windows makes it remarkably quiet inside even when stuck alongside noisy neighbours or busy roads.

The double bed is comfy and cleverly designed with a bolster coming off at the top to give you more than six feet in leg room. It can be neatly stored underneath, with gas struts giving easy-to-lift access to storage.

The kitchen is compact as you'd expect in a van this size, but well equipped. The SMEV stove is better than most homes I've lived in, with three gas burners and one electric hotplate along with a grill and oven with a turntable. A glass lid comes down to neatly conceal the hotplates and give more preparation space. The microwave is standard along with a 3-way (gas, 12v and 240v) 150 litre Dometic fridge.

There are two 82 litre water storage tanks along with a 22 litre hot water tank which is more than enough for a decent shower and it re-heats in 30 minutes, powered by either 240v or gas. The battery back-up can last 2-3 days if you're camping away from mains power. A solar panel pack would set you back approximately another \$900.

For a small van, the shower is a decent size and there's a Thetford cassette toilet opposite. The basin has a flick mixer, as

does the kitchen sink, which also has a pump tap for when you're away from mains supply.

The quality of finishes is impressive. The furniture is all aluminium framed, there are synthetic edges on corners to make them 'bump proof'. The fabrics really stand out including rubber-backed curtains and matching fabric pelmets. Leather is available as an option for an extra \$1400

Jayco is obviously the most mass produced caravan in Australia, but the range of different floorplans and optional extras effectively lets you customise it the way you want. You'd have to be extremely fussy not to be able to order and create exactly what you're looking for.

The value though is hard to beat. Consider the option of an off road kit with 18 inch alloys and upgraded ALKO suspension, combined with an optional outdoor shower, slide out barbeque and bike racks on the back. You get a caravan that's durable and better equipped than what you might find for twice the price elsewhere.

Pulling up at a caravan park, owners of other vans will sometimes have a shot at Jayco because there are so many on the road; the inference being that mass production means quality goes out the back door.

But these criticisms are not really borne out by the facts. Jayco caravans hold their

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Kris Watson

value as well as any other brands, one of the factors helping to make caravan holidays so popular.

We picked up our test van from Watsons Caravans of Coffs Harbour where they've been selling Jayco exclusively for just under 25 years and wouldn't sell anything else. Kris Watson says buyers come back to swap their Jayco for another – trading up or down depending on their lifestyle.

We certainly found a lot to like with the Starcraft and the value and inclusions are hard to beat.

Price: **from \$39,990**

Full details & specs: [www.jayco.com.au](http://www.jayco.com.au)



## ABOUT OUR COVER MODEL

In 1968 Bruce McPhee took a brand new Holden Monaro off the showroom floor of Wyong Motors, drove it to Bathurst and won the Hardie Ferodo 500, thereby becoming the first Holden driver to win the gruelling Mount Panorama race.

The win was even more remarkable in that McPhee received no support from Holden and, legend has it, completed the race on just one set of tyres.

Also: Bruce McPhee's signature is on the glove box lid.

Owner Peter Hallam of Coffs Harbour has had it since 2000 and has since had the exterior re-sprayed in the original yellow colour. The black vinyl interior remains in immaculate original condition.

"This could be the original race car, or maybe not. I met Bruce McPhee a few times and showed it to him and he said it could be it. After winning at Bathurst he drove it back to Wyong and this was purchased from Wyong Motors in 1971," Peter said.

"What happened after that is a bit of a mystery, but there are a lot of weird things about it like letters in the roof and bogged up dents."

Peter is a keen collector with two other Monaros in the shed in various stages of restoration. He enjoys taking the GTS327 for a run "every few weeks".





Daniel Linnet

pros 

- > Separate shower and toilet, rather than all in the same tiny compartment common in most small vans
- > Overall quality and inclusions for a great price, plus great added options
- > Compact size doesn't require a hefty 4WD tow vehicle or storage space

cons 

- > Storage is somewhat limited, as you'd expect in a smaller van
- > Sound system and TV antenna are extras
- > TV bracket on test model was inconveniently fitted above kitchen bench



Daniel Linnet



Daniel Linnet



Daniel Linnet



Daniel Linnet

# Tofino



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# Feature packed baby has it all

Tested **Suncamper Sherwood 4X4** Review and images by Richard Robertson

## SUNCAMPER SHERWOOD 4X4 PUNCHES WELL ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

**Suncamper's Sherwood is a small C-Class motorhome, which due to its compact dimensions rivals many campervans in size and is also about the same size as a ute and slide-on. The product of years of design evolution, it's a well built and thoughtfully appointed motorhome ideal for one or two people.**

The Sherwood is built on Toyota's HiLux cab-chassis. On-road prices start at \$94,900 for a two-wheel drive and \$112,990 for a four-wheel drive. The test Sherwood 4x4 was a customer order loaded with options, including roof reinforcement, mounts and rack for a surf ski, bringing it's on-road price to a not-inconsiderable \$139,990.

This Sherwood had optional 17-inch off-road rims fitted with chunky LT265/65

R 17 Cooper Discoverer tyres. Other vehicle options fitted were a steel bullbar, snorkel, 128-litre long range fuel tank, steel side steps, wheel flares, bonnet and headlight protectors, stereo controls on a leather steering wheel and twin reversing cameras (straight down/distance).

The HiLux 4X4 has 6 airbags and anti-lock brakes (ABS), but not vehicle stability control (yet), making it 4 star safe. It also has remote central locking, power steering, electric windows and mirrors, and an MP3/CD audio system with USB input and Bluetooth capabilities.

With its raised suspension and bigger wheels/tyres this off-road Sherwood looks impressive. The Lovell suspension system is particularly well sorted and provides a degree of ride suppleness and control belying the vehicle's size and weight. Performance-wise it's happier at 100 than 110 km/h, due to its frontal area, but the HiLux cab is a pleasant place to spend your time.

### Body Matters

The company uses a simple, rugged and straightforward construction method that has been proven over decades. The Sherwood's layout features an over-cab main bed, a driver's side mid bathroom and kerb side mid kitchen, plus an inwards-facing rear cafe-style dinette/second bed. For a small vehicle it seems to pack a surprising amount of space and I'm sure a well organised couple could happily tour Australia in it for months on end.

The test Sherwood's fitted body options were as follows, starting on the outside: A 3-metre awning, over-bed roof hatch, auxiliary shower, kerb-side external storage access hatch, fold-down table, mains power point, electric double entry-step, a bathroom side window and 2 x 120 W solar panels. Inside, the options fitted comprised a 4 speaker cinematic sound system plus a DVD/CD/MP3 sound system and 54 cm (21.5 in) LED TV; a diesel room heater, second 120 AH house



battery, leather motorhome upholstery and an innerspring main bed mattress.

The Sherwood is bright and fresh inside, with contemporary high-gloss cabinetry, extensive and clever use of LED lights and a general feeling of quality. Its fixed rear window plus two opening side windows at the rear provide a flood of natural light and, along with a generous roof hatch, ensure plenty of fresh air.

### Living and Dining Room

Compact is what living in the Sherwood is all about, but don't confuse that with cramped. Thanks also to wraparound windows at the rear you sit in the view when seated at the dinette. This is one of the little vehicle's biggest attractions and because it's so manoeuvrable you can easily back into just about any spot and enjoy the view.

With the bedroom up front, the kitchen and bathroom in the middle and the dinette-cum-second-bed at the back it's easy for two people to keep out of each other's way,

and a great space for a solo traveller.

Apart from the bed the only place to lounge around is the dinette. It has two inward-facing sofas and a clever lift-up dining table between them, which tucks neatly out of the way in a small cabinet on the back wall when not required. The cabinet also has a small table on top for when you're just sitting back with coffee, a drink and/or your favourite book.

Both lounge sofas have removable cushions and hinged bases; the latter lifting easily to access storage space below.

Overhead is good cupboard space down both sides and across the back wall. Although not particularly deep the cupboards provide invaluable storage in this small vehicle.

### Meals on Wheels

Built galley-style in the middle of the Sherwood, the kitchen's two sections contain the cooker and rangehood, fridge and cutlery drawer/cupboards on

the kerb side, and the sink plus extra cupboard space on the driver's side.

A three burner gas cooker is set in a small run of bench space between the entry door and dinette. The cooker has a glass lid for added bench space and above it is a ducted stainless steel rangehood, with cupboards above it. Below the sink is a 90-litre 3-way fridge. To the right of the cooker is a small piece of bench top, below which is a single cutlery drawer with a shelved cupboard below. It should be noted that a microwave is usually mounted in the overhead cupboard above the free bench space. However, it was removed in this instance at the customer's request.

Across the aisle is the other kitchen unit, which sits between a small three quarter height wardrobe and the dinette. It has a single bowl stainless steel sink with a glass lid set in a small run of bench top, plus a flick mixer tap. Below the sink is a panel that houses various switches, and below that is a shallow pantry-style






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cupboard. The wardrobe unit to the left provides valuable extra bench space on top, while above it is space for the optional TV and entertainment system.

### Cleaning Up

The bathroom is compact, but due to its square shape it's surprisingly roomy. A padded magazine rack on its outside wall is a nice touch, too. Water capacity is 72 litres fresh and 45 litres grey, while the gas/electric Suburban hot water system is good for 23 litres: Not excessive, but enough for a few days free camping.

Inside, the bathroom has a Thetford bench-style cassette toilet and a small corner basin with a pull out hand nozzle that doubles as both basin tap and shower unit (which can be wall mounted). Only a fan hatch is standard for ventilation, although the test Sherwood had an optional bathroom window. A wall mirror, folding drying rack, shower curtain over the door and sexy white/blue LED light are also standard inclusions.

### Good Night

Some people are put off by the thought of an over-cab bed, but getting up there is aided by a step built into the base of

the bathroom wall, which also provides storage space and even houses a tissue dispenser accessible from the cab.

The deep nosecone provides quite reasonable sitting-up room, while the bed itself is a decent size: I measured it at about 1900 mm x 1400 mm (6 ft 3 in x 4 ft 7 in). Reading lights are only provided at the kerb-side end, which limits your regular sleeping options, but does help prevent possible feelings of claustrophobia when sleeping tucked away behind the bathroom wall.

Large windows at both ends provide plenty of air and light, while the optional over-bed roof hatch of the test vehicle seems like a worthwhile consideration. There's a magazine rack on the bathroom wall, too, plus a privacy curtain that can be pulled across when desired.

### The Final Word

The Suncamper Sherwood has always been a personal favourite. For some the lack of easy through-cab access might be a deal breaker, but that would be selling the Sherwood short as all vehicles have their compromises.

All Sherwoods pack a lot of features into a small space and are genuinely

practical touring motorhomes. Well built, proven and able to take you places bigger vehicles just can't go, a Sherwood could even be your daily driver if required. Add in the versatility of four-wheel drive and the possibilities are almost limitless.

Full details and specs at:  
[iMotorhome.com.au](http://iMotorhome.com.au)

### pros

- Compact and maneuverable
- Dinette views
- Car licence only
- Quality fit and finish
- Good space efficiency
- Serious off-road ability

### cons

- Pricy when fully optioned
- Limited bulky storage
- HiLux no longer cutting edge
- Limited water capacity

## OR YOU MAY LIKE TO TRY



### SUNLINER RANGER 4WD

Featuring a near-identical body and interior layout to the Sherwood, the Ranger's big difference is in its base vehicle: The new Ford Ranger. More powerful and with a better gearbox than the HiLux (six-speeds v four), plus five star safety, the Sunliner Ranger 4WD is a serious alternative well worth investigating.



### TALVOR ADVENTURE CAMPER

This is an unusual pop-top campervan – it has no bathroom so it can't really be called a motorhome. It's a less bulky but less plush take on the small RV concept. Designed primarily for the rental market and lovers of more outdoor-centred living, its big plus is a massive bed. Inside, however, it's otherwise pretty basic.



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# Freedom to Roam

**Tested Northstar Offroada 6 Rear Door** Story and photos by David Cook

WHILE THERE'S A HUGE RANGE OF OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO TOURING AND ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS THESE DAYS, THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR THE FLEXIBILITY OF SLIDE-ON CAMPERS.

**Growing in popularity, they give you the capacity to tow a boat, a horse float or other trailer. Buyers especially like the fact you can offload the camper and drive away exploring, while your camp remains undisturbed as a base. There's also the ability to easily park in standard sized spaces in town and, matched with a suitable 4 wheel drive, go pretty much anywhere off road your vehicle is capable of driving.**

All these features, combined with affordable entry-level pricing is behind the success of the Northstar range of slide-ons, from Freedom Off Road.

Freedom Offroad has been importing the Northstar range for 11 years, and also have them sold through agencies in most states.

The Northstar range is manufactured in the USA, but specially designed and built to comply with Australian standards. This includes correct multi strand cabling, approved gas appliances.

Responding to the popularity of tray-top vehicles in Australia market, Northstar has developed completely new models solely for this market. These include a side entry which is very handy if you need to tow anything.

Add this a general great range of features

that come out of the Northstar factory and you have a winning combination, especially with 17 different slide-ons models available.

Northstar is a family-owned business in the US, with three generations of the Willett family ensuring the success of the company since 1961.

Northstar slide-ons are built on a sturdy frame, with fibreglass walls and a tough roof that's strong enough to walk on, so it can carry solar panels or air conditioners. All units are fully insulated in the ceilings, walls and floor as they are designed to meet the extremes of North American weather where it can get just as hot and an awful lot colder than Australia.

All joints in the timber framing are screwed and glued, and all plywoods used are chosen for their low or non-existent

formaldehyde emissions.

There is a wide range of models in the Northstar range, designed to meet a wide range of customer requirements and vehicles. The low profile pop top designs give good clearance in wooded areas, but the solid sided vans require less set-up and have greater room inside.

The interior layouts also vary widely, but all come with inner spring mattresses, hot water system, fresh water tank, mains water inlet, two- or three-burner glass top stove, sink, fridge, C-Tek charger and battery(s), 4 or 9kg gas bottle, grey water tank, screened entrance door, porch light and assist handle, fire extinguisher, one 12V and two interior 240V power outlets, exhaust fan and LPG, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.

Layouts can include east-west or north-south beds, all have interior eating nooks which can be adapted as lounges and/or additional bedding, some have showers and many have toilets. All beds are located at the front, above the vehicle cab.

All models also come with manual corner jacks, but these can be converted to power units that can be operated by a portable drill and all come with fitting kits to adapt them to your vehicle.

The models are variously designed to match the vehicle, and can vary from smaller, light weight models to larger roomier layouts intended for heavy duty vehicles. All popular ute and tray back models are catered for. There's also a huge range of optional extras.

All Northstar units come with a five-year offroad warranty on the basic structure (all appliances carry their manufacturer's warranties) so you will at least know that if you want you can undertake that Gibb River Road or Cape York adventure that you've always dreamed of in complete confidence, even if all you end up doing is cruising up and down the motorways near home.

Slide-on campers fit on a utility or tray-back vehicle and are held in place by restraints. The Northstar range come with spring-loaded Happijac or Torklift turnbuckles, which are designed to permit the vehicle's chassis to flex as it was

designed to without strain on the camper's mounts or the vehicle's chassis or body. Freedom Off Road will set up your vehicle with detachable underbody chassis mount kits to enable easy installation and removal at home or away on camp.

About the only other adaption that might be necessary is the fitting of set of air bags (available for either coil or leaf spring suspensions, which will assist in the vehicle's ability to carry the load safely and comfortably. If desiring to carry a camper

that might exceed the GVM of the basic vehicle Freedom Off Road can advise you on upgrading the vehicle's rating.

Since their introduction to Australia, Northstar slide-on campers have won a number of underlining their quality.

Price **\$27,990 plus fitting kit**  
 Warranty **Five years (structural)**  
 Full details and specs  
[www.freedomoffroad.com.au](http://www.freedomoffroad.com.au)



Freedom Offroad Director Ian Swallow and Sales Manager Steve Tanner  
 Below: Inside Freedom Offroad's massive new complex at Penrith NSW



## pros

- Proven product
- Great warranty
- Well finished
- Good range of options
- Well insulated

## cons

- Relatively heavy compared to some slide-ons
- Side legs can snag logs or other roadside obstacles
- Fairly limited electrical fitout



## OR YOU MAY LIKE TO TRY



### WEDGETAIL

The Wedgetail camper is an all-Australian made unit produced in Newcastle, NSW. It is a very high quality and surprisingly roomy unit for its compact size and is designed for the rugged and dusty nature of the Australian outback. It is different to the Northstar in that it does involve flipping over the top, lowering the rear and tensioning the canvas roof, but the entire process, assisted by winches, takes just eight minutes so it is not arduous. It has both exterior and interior cooking facilities and internal shower/toilet and is a well thought out and constructed camper. **From \$40,879**



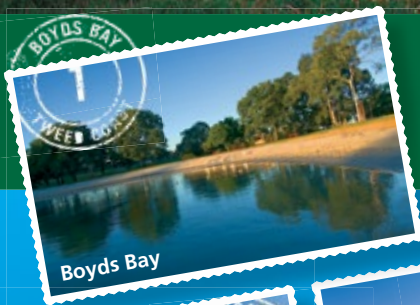
### MILLARD

The Millard is another all Australian designed and constructed camper, produced by the company that has gained such a high reputation for its caravans over a very long period. The Millards are either a pop-top or hard top design and show their caravan origins in terms of internal fitout. They have no external cooking facilities, and can be a bit "clunky" in set-up (steps to reach clips, heavy side steps that must be manhandled, etc) but have an internal shower/toilet, and lots of comforts to keep the wife happy, however all this comes at the price of a hefty weight of up to 780kg. **From \$36,500**

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# Land of Legends



## HISTORY AND NATURAL WONDERS COME TOGETHER FOR A LEGENDARY MACLEAY HOLIDAY

**The wonders of the Macleay region first caught the attention of a tourist way back in 1770, or at least that was the first documented visit.**

Captain James Cook voyaged up the east coast and named "Smoakey Cape" writing in his journal "a point or headland, on which were fires that caused a great quantity of smook, which occasioned my giving it the name of Smooky Cape (sic)".

Smoky Cape may have been spelt differently, there was no doubt at all about the natural attraction of this stunning length of coast and tourism was already booming in the area just over a century after that first distant sighting.

In 1889 it was reported nearby South West Rocks was dealing with an influx of 300 visitors who'd erected up to 60 tents. They were mingling with guests from the nearby Jubilee Guest House, regarded as "one of the best in the colonies". Bathing machines were advertised as early as 1885 with "competent lady attendants" supervising. By then, South West Rocks was being described as "The Manly of the North".

Today the Macleay Coast's spectacular

beaches and beautiful shoreline are still drawing visitors in their hundreds. From gently rolling waves to pounding surf breaks, the variety and pristine splendour of the region's beaches make them some of Australia's best. They are so numerous, it's never too hard to find a quiet patch if you want to get away from it all.

One of the best places to get a snapshot of the Macleay is from the top of Mount Yarrahappini where on a clear day you can get a panoramic view and see for yourself how the rainforest meets the sea. It's a good starting point for a leisurely coastal drive, stopping in at the little villages and beaches on the way.

The surrounding hinterland region is probably the true surprise – and delight – of the Macleay Valley Coast. Within minutes of leaving Kempsey you can find yourself in true Australian mountain country with crystal clear creeks, rocky outcrops, towering eucalypts and the warmth of good old fashioned country hospitality.

The Upper Macleay River offers some of Australia's best bass fishing, while lovers of the great outdoors also come here to camp, bushwalk, explore the restored timber towns and soak up the natural beauty.



Dot Burton Crescent Head circa 1943







Top: The ghosts of prisoners past still haunt the ruins of Trial Bay Gaol. Below: Slim Dusty's original home, Melody Ranch, near Bellbrook. Right The bluff at Crescent Head today and as it was in the 1950s

## Did you know?

### Kempsey and the Macleay region are home to three Australian icons

#### 1. Slim Dusty

David Gordon Kirkpatrick was born in Kempsey and grew up at Melody Ranch at Nulla Nulla near Bellbrook.

Legend has it that Slim Dusty began his performing career by travelling the long route from the family farm at Bellbrook and standing outside the studios of Radio 2MC until the station manager finally gave him a job.

He knew his destiny – he adopted the Slim Dusty name at age 11 and went on to be one of our most successful recording artists, with a professional career spanning 70 years.

Slim's 1957 smash hit, "The Pub with no Beer" broke so many records it still manages to hold on to a few today.

Today the visitors can follow the Macleay to see Slim's childhood home. There is a story board which tells of his life and press a button to hear Slim talk of his memories growing up in this picturesque location. There is a dirt road through Millbank to a hotel today known as the Pub with No Beer.

Or you can head to the Slim Dusty Country

Music Memories Week from October 21 to 27. Bring your caravan to one of the five holiday parks or camp out at Kempsey showground and enjoy a week-long celebration of traditional country music in the birthplace of Slim Dusty.

#### 2. Akubra hats

A family-owned company tracing its hat-making heritage back to the 1870s, Akubra moved from Sydney to Kempsey in 1974. Australia's best known hat maker outfitted our servicemen with slouch hats in both World Wars, while Prime Minister Ben Chifley's Akubras are housed in the National Museum.

There are no visitor tours of the factory, however there is a video and display at the Kempsey Visitor Information Centre. You can buy Akubras from the range at Barsby's in Smith Street in Kempsey. Barsby's is one of the few remaining family-owned department stores in existence in regional NSW – well worth a visit in its own right.

Akubra is the key sponsor of the Kempsey Cup on November 8th at the Warwick Park Racecourse.

#### 3. MILO

The drink named after the Greek mythical character of great strength was developed by Nestle as a health tonic for malnourished children during the depression.

First produced at Smithtown near Kempsey, Milo debuted at the 1934 Sydney Royal Easter Show and has been a hit with Aussies ever since.

Industrial chemist Thomas Mayne was Milo's inventor, using industrial food production processes that were cutting edge for their time.

A chocolate syrup is made from cocoa, malted wheat and barley, with liquids evaporated out to create sweet chunks. These are then pummelled into tiny pieces, then sealed in a can.

Nestle's Smithtown factory, a dairy production site since 1897, still makes Milo today.

While the plant is not open to tourists, you can take a history walk around Smithtown and enjoy hot cup of the chocolate malt drink at the end of a great day of sightseeing. →



Top left, families love the pristine creek running right alongside the Crescent Head Holiday Park, while surfers come from all over the world to catch a wave at the adjacent beach. Bottom left, rainforest meets the sea, Right: play facilities at South West Rocks today and back in the 1970s



## Top 5 Macleay experiences

### 1. Trial Bay Gaol

Visit the historic ruins of Trial Bay Gaol and museum to discover life as a German World War 1 internee.

Sculpture in the Gaol takes place in August and September each year.

### 2. Surf at Crescent Head

Ride a Malibu at one of Australia's best Surfing Reserves. Even if you can't master a board, a body surf on this sensational north-facing beach or a paddle in the beautiful creek lagoon makes a visit to Crescent Head unforgettable.

### 3. Smoky Cape Lighthouse

One of the last major lighthouse complexes designed by celebrated NSW

Colonial Architect James Barnett, unusual for its octagonal shape. It's position on the cape named by Captain James Cook 140 metres above the sea makes it the highest in New South Wales and offers visitors stunning views.

There's an excellent information board in the former Lighthouse stables telling the amazing history. The Lighthouse was crucial to helping ships navigate the coast and avoid coming to grief on rocks. The workers blazed their way through bush from the Macleay River to make a track to the lighthouse site.

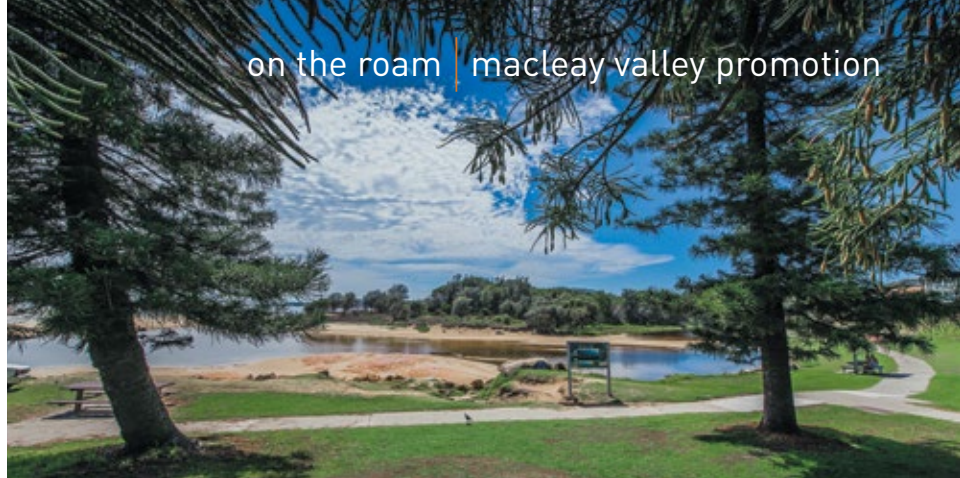
It's a moderate 20 minute walk from the Lighthouse to the beautiful secluded beach below.

### 4 Dive at Fish Rock

This legendary dive spot is internationally renowned for its underwater cave plus an abundance of marine creatures, including turtles, rays, eels, fish and grey nurse sharks.

### 5. Discover Wigay Aboriginal Cultural Park

Take a tour of this bush tucker park in West Kempsey and discover the plants, foods and medicines that have been part of Dunghutti life for over 40,000 years.



## Macleay's legendary holiday parks

Located at five spectacular locations along the Mid North Coast of NSW, The Macleay Valley Coastal Holiday Parks have something for everyone.

Macleay Valley Coastal Holiday Parks team is dedicated to the spirit of a relaxing beachside holiday. Celebrating the great outdoors, cricket on the beach, making new friends around the barbeque and nights spent under millions of shining stars. That's what they believe holidays should be about, a chance to relax, to take a step back and unwind.

Situated at one of the best locations on the Mid North Coast, the **Crescent Head Holiday Park** is a great holiday spot with beach and creek front location. Enjoy watching the surfers tackle the world renowned long break or enjoy a round of golf at the fully accredited six-hole golf course. The Kiosk, also provides a range of delicious food and drinks.

**Horseshoe Bay Holiday Park** is one of the most picturesque holiday parks, located on absolute beach frontage at South West Rocks. Nestled under shady pines in a

tranquil amphitheater with ocean, mountain and beach views and easy walking distance to shops and dining. Enjoy fabulous fishing and diving spots, explore Trial Bay Gaol and its history or just stay and unwind.

**Hat Head Holiday Park** is surrounded by the unspoiled National Park and offers the ultimate beachside escape for nature lovers. There is access to a boat ramp and a diverse range of magnificent fishing spots. Go snorkeling in the pristine waters of Korogoro Creek or bring your kayak or surf ski and explore the waterway. Watch the whales from the headland as they migrate from May to November.

Nestled on the banks of the Macleay River, between vast golden beaches and forests, **Stuarts Point Holiday Park** is a secluded and serene riverside hideaway. Offering boat ramp and mooring, anglers have an almost unlimited choice of fishing spots! The Park offers clean, well-equipped facilities and is situated close to local shops, the Tavern and the Workers Club.

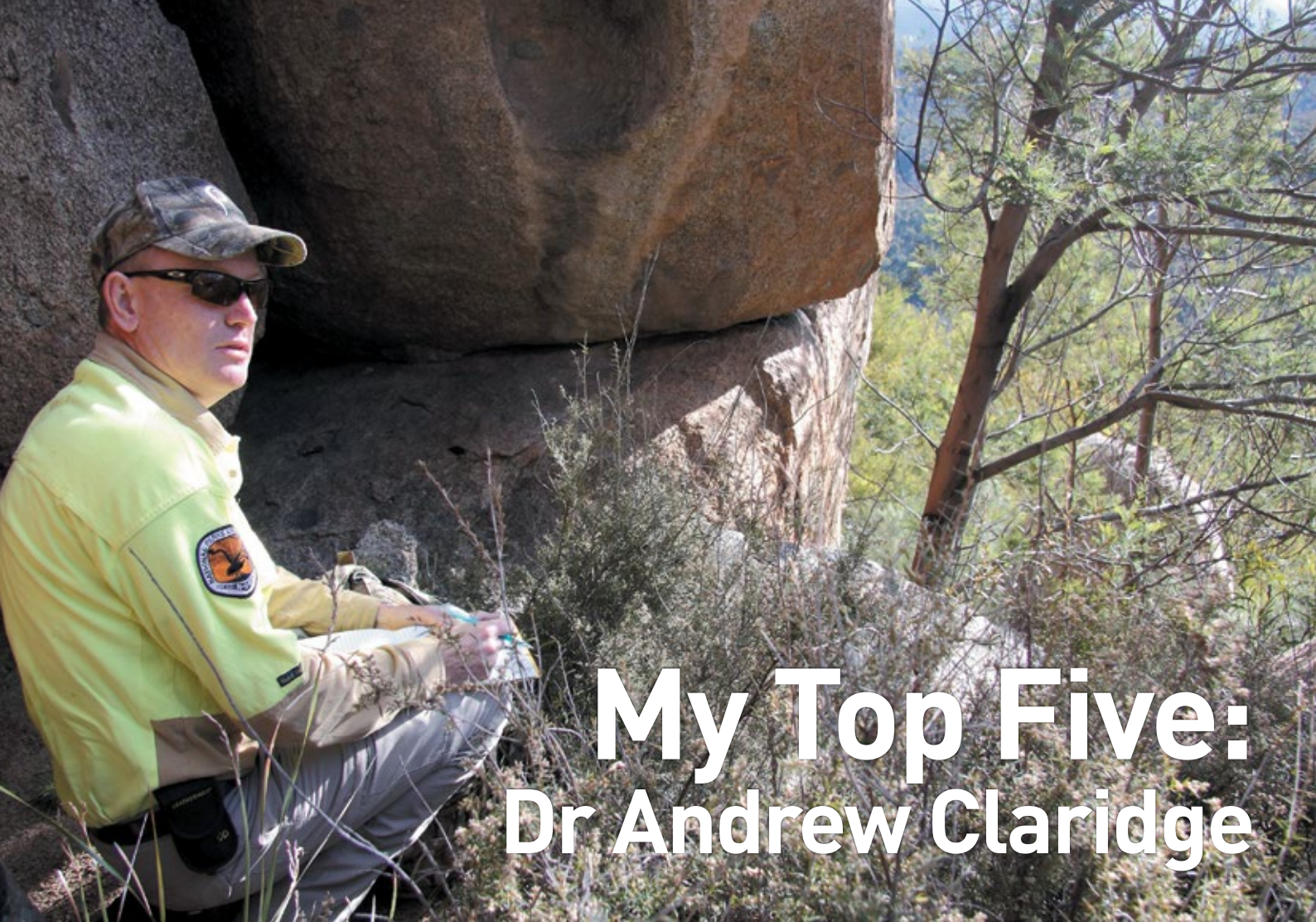
Hidden among lush coastal forests and pristine golden beaches, **Grassy Head**

**Holiday Park** offers an abundance of fishing. Nature lovers will delight in the wildlife and beautiful bush land surrounds and the popular River Walk follows the riverbank from Grassy Head to Stuarts Point. Take a scenic drive to Yarrahappini Lookout or a basket lunch to the Pines picnic area.

There are a range of accommodation options available at each park, ranging from unpowered sites, powered sites and cabins, bungalows and villas.

**So the next time you are looking for that something extra for your holiday experience go to: [www.mvcholidayparks.com.au](http://www.mvcholidayparks.com.au) or call 1300 262 782 for more details about each park.**





# My Top Five: Dr Andrew Claridge

**ANDREW CLARIDGE GREW UP ROAMING AUSTRALIA, LEADING TO A FASCINATION FOR WILDLIFE AND A REMARKABLE CAREER.**



**Most people who were forced to move around a lot as kids recall horror days trying to settle into new schools and make new friends.**

Andrew Claridge has a different take on his nomadic childhood as his family moved from Tasmania to WA, then back across the continent to Victoria.

He says those early moves exposed him to the Australian environment, giving him a life-long thirst for knowledge about our unique nature.

“My father was a rolling stone and we travelled all the time and I love travelling today, as long as I’m on the ground and can take it all in.”

Doctor Andrew Claridge is regarded as one of the country’s foremost experts in creatures ranging from fungus to furs and even those with fins.

He’s had a 16-year career as an animal researcher with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service where today he’s a Senior Research Scientist.

“Every day I get to work with animals makes me elated. I don’t know why, but it is a good feeling and it keeps me alive.”

Subjects of his expert study include dingos, bandicoots, gliders, possums and quolls. He also knows a lot about feral animals like foxes and deer.

He’s most noted as an authority on how Australian mammals forage for native fungus. “The Hidden Life of Truffles”, a book



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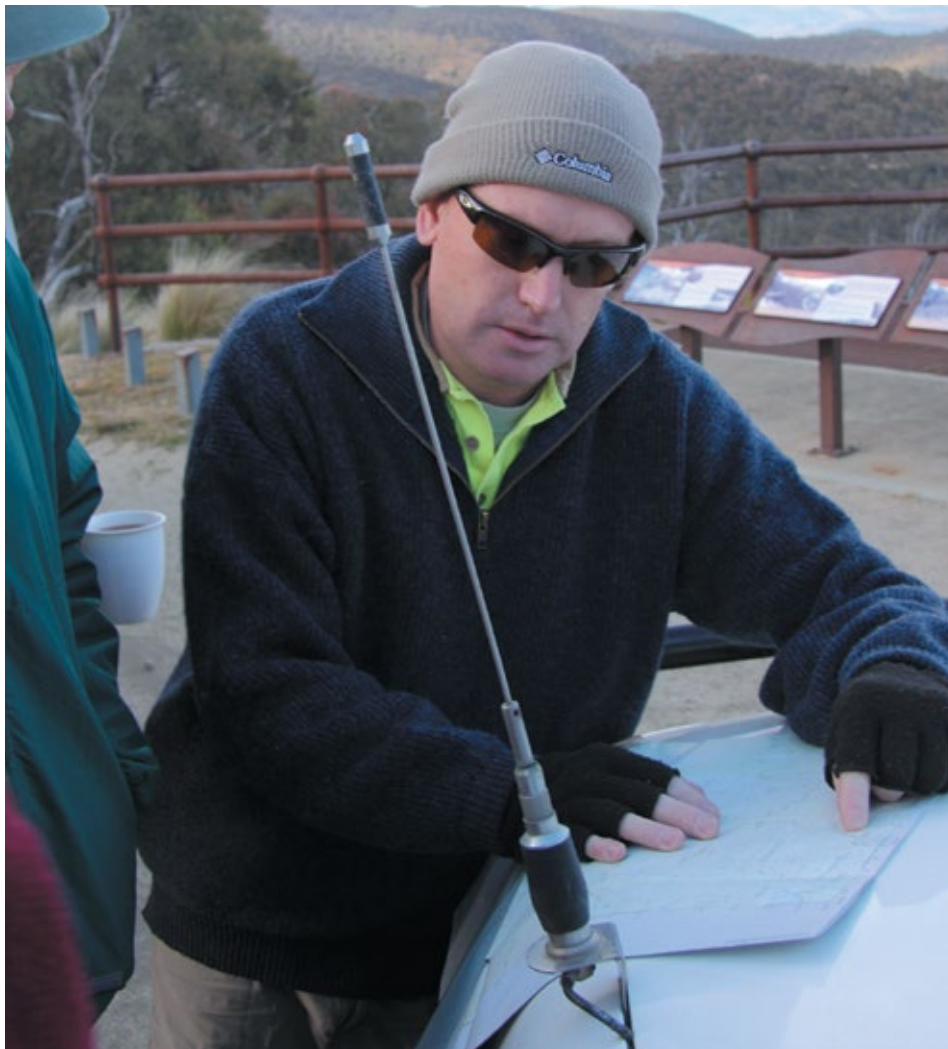


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Andrew says technology has made the job of monitoring wildlife easier and more humane. Above: a dingo is fitted with a tracking device. Below: an infra-red camera for getting a better look at nocturnal animals.

based on years of research including his PHD, is just one of many works and papers published. Others titles include "Wildlife on Farms", "How Forests Function" and pieces on bettongs, potoroos and musky rat-kangaroos.

It goes without saying, he's the sort of bloke you could spend hours yarning with around a campfire without even having to get close to discussing politics or religion.

Andrew loves camping and being outdoors, especially fishing with his nine year old son.

"We only kill them if we need them for food. Otherwise we put them back."

As far as work goes however, camping has become somewhat obsolete.

He says wildlife study is increasingly becoming a "day job" thanks to infra-red digital cameras and other high-tech equipment.

"When I started out we used to trap animals, but now that we use cameras, the animals come and go as they please. It's much more ethical, we get much better information and I'm not sitting in my tent worrying about the welfare of animals at night."

What's interesting about Andrew is his fascination for how different parts of the landscape interact, including how built and natural environments co-exist. This fascination is borne out in his nominated Top 5 destinations, several of which he selects

because of the way the way the bush marries with the urban environment.

"The major focus of my research work has been in south-eastern mainland Australia and even if you are travelling down the Hume Highway, there is a rich and varied biodiversity from Melbourne all the way to Sydney."

He says a highlight of his work over the past decade was seeing how the bush recovered from the devastating fires of 2002-2003.


"Many of the places where I work were burned very badly. At first glance this was devastating to me. However, in time, all of these places have recovered to be fully functioning landscapes once again. While

they're not a mirror-image of what they were before, they are nevertheless diverse, vibrant and functioning.

The lesson I guess is that nature is ever-changing and has an innate resilience that we shouldn't underestimate. We have to do as REO Speedwagon sang: "Roll with the changes..."

Andrew is proud of the fact Australians have had a growing appreciation for the environment in his lifetime and welcomes everyone taking more of an interest in the nature around them.

"For the most part, leave places as you find. Be humble, be respectful and be observant. If you think that information might be important – for example, a sighting of a rare or unusual animal species, don't feel your observations are trivial."

Have wildlife info to share? Andrew recommends reporting online via the Atlas of Living Australia: [www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au) 



A possum, wombat and spotted quoll all captured by the same camera at various times of day.

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# 1

## Tarra-Bulga National Park, South Gippsland VIC

Andrew says; **“The size of a postage stamp with spectacular diversity.”** There are remnants of the once great forests that covered the region, with good road access for travellers. The park covers some of the best examples of original cool temperate rainforests of the Strzelecki Ranges. Walk to the impressive Corrigan’s Suspension Bridge, which stretches through the rainforest canopy offering spectacular views of the fern gully below.



# 2

## Ben Boyd National Park NSW

Andrew says: **“An amazing place in south east Australia that still has wilderness qualities”.** As well as spectacular shorelines and lookouts, Ben Boyd also features the historic Green Cape Lighthouse and the Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site. Camping is available in the park. For caravan and RV travellers, there are three tourist parks in Eden, which is the most central place to use as a base to explore the region.



# 3

## North and South Heads, Sydney Harbour NSW

**“Sanctuaries in the middle of a metropolis, where you can still find a quiet place and get away from it all.”** Easy to get to by public transport, take a picnic, find a sandstone rock shelf and spend the day taking in the spectacular views and watching the boats come and go.

# 4

## The National Arboretum, Canberra ACT

**“The bonsai collection is a particular favourite – it is a forest within a forest. Whoever came up with this idea should be congratulated. If you ever want to escape to a sanctuary, just get in there and breathe”.** The National Arboretum was established on land to the west of the city formerly used for pine forests which were destroyed in the 2003 bushfires. Opened in February this year, it is already becoming one of the national Capital’s ‘must see’ attractions.

# 5

## Coles Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula, TAS

**“Big granite boulders and breathtaking beauty.”** An easy two and a half hour drive from Hobart, Coles Bay claims to have been the first town in the world to ban its shops using plastic bags. Hardly surprising given some of the nearby beaches including Wineglass Bay and the Friendly Beaches are rated as the best and most beautiful in Australia.





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## SA Caravan & Offroad Sale 1 – 4 August



Ashleigh & Bek



Ben & John May



Janeece & Bronte Scholz



Melissa & Natalie of Dario



Natalie, Ken, Joel & Jamie



Peter Gregory & Matthew Slec

Photos Ruth Morris

## NSW Mid North Coast Show 9 – 11 August



Unsung Heroes - The Ladies & Gents Auxiliary



Brian Taylor & Andrew Walter Bluetongue Campers



Colin King renovated a Sunliner & a Franklin



Anthony & Chris Rolf



Graham Jones ORS Offroad

Photos Phill Terry



Henrietta & Adrian



Maurice & Moyra



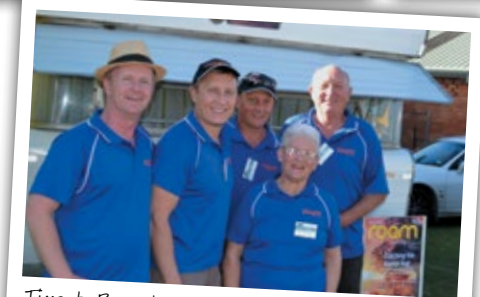
Maurice & Rick



Peter Burson & Bev Belt



Rob Haire & Largo



Time to Roam team



Bob Burrage caught reading...



Glenn Wilson

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# QLD Rockhampton Show 23 – 25 August



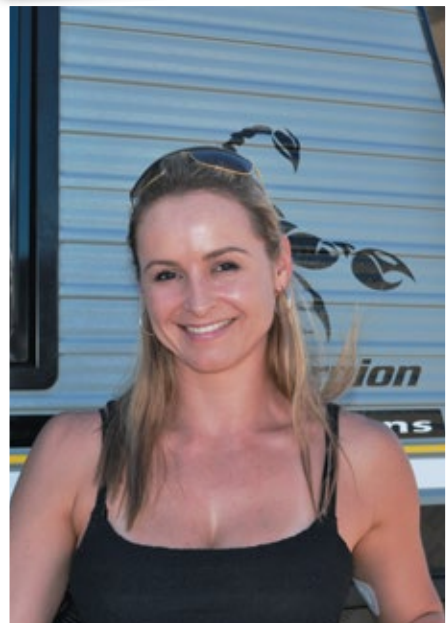
Abraham Fovani



Earths Favourite



Bob Carroll & Ali Yarrow



Cindy Laas



Greg & Carmel



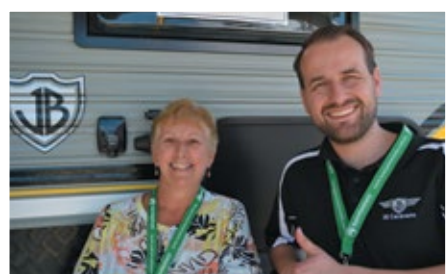
Harper & Sue



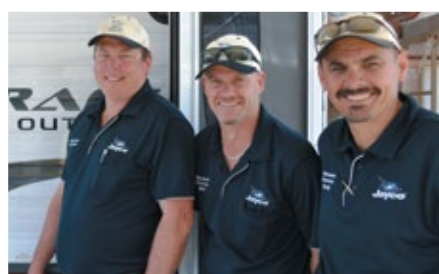
Josh Dillon



Judy MacDonald a true blue



Lynn & Justin



Russell, Brad, & Craig



Shane Dodds & Danny Smith



Simon



Surrender your caravans



John & Wendy Smallgood

# WA Goldfields Tour Aug 30 – Sept 8

Photos Keith Hall

This year the annual West Australian vintage caravan Spring Tour was a 10 day, 1500km trek from Beverley, through the goldfields, and back to Kellerberrin. The relaxed schedule allowed plenty of time for sightseeing, meeting the locals, checking out the other retro rigs, chatting and partying.



A Modern & A Sunliner



Breaky in Merredin



Classic convoy



Galady's the Globe Trotter



Ian Taylor relaxes in his 1959 Sunliner



Lorraine Roberts Chris Dagg & their 1959 Globe Trotter



Mark Taylor & Wendy Millsteed with their 1955 Don



On the road in a 1958 FC Holden & 1959 Globe Trotter



Ron Van Halen with his 1964 Falcon & 1966 Aristocrat



Ron with his 1966 Aristocrat



WA Touring



1950 Chevy with a 1955 Don



## Not Just Canvas:

Not Just Canvas has been supplying quality canvas goods to the public for twelve years. Teena and Dan Brown run the very successful family owned operation. Working with a small team consisting of a cutter and four machinists, Not Just Canvas manufacture and supply Gumnut Annexes and Mountain Goat Campers. The Caboolture team also supply awnings and awning skins, 4WD canopies, ute tonneaus and more. In recent times Not Just Canvas has expanded the factory and have opened a camping goods shop. Not Just Canvas also takes orders for small fabrication jobs such as tool boxes and other custom work.

➔ **For great and friendly service and advice on your canvas needs call Teena or Dan on 07 5428 39944-**



## Easy to follow directions

A New Way to View Directions: Garmin® Introduces Its First Portable Head-up Display (HUD)

Garmin, a leader in satellite navigation, has launched HUD, the company's first portable head-up display for smartphone navigation apps. HUD is an innovative device that projects clear directions onto the car windscreen, making it easy for drivers to navigate without losing sight of the road ahead.

Easy to follow directions assist in increasing safety by reducing distractions. The display's brightness level adjusts automatically ensuring projections are clearly visible in all conditions. HUD is familiar with features such as a display of current speed and limit, estimated arrival time, the best lane for the next manoeuvre, warnings of potential traffic delays and upcoming safety camera locations.

HUD has a recommended price of \$179 and

will be available October from Harvey Norman and Samsung Experience stores in Sydney and Melbourne as well as online at [www.samsung.com.au](http://www.samsung.com.au)

➔ **The Garmin HUD connects via Bluetooth to your Smartphone. You must have NAVIGON for Android™, iPhone®, Windows® Phone 8 or Garmin Navigator for iOS and Android installed.**



## Hungry Campers Cookbook

Camping, sleeping under the stars, getting back to nature and good wholesome fun for all the family. There's just one letdown. The food. If the prospect of tinned spaghetti fills you with horror, the Hungry Campers Cookbook is for you.

Long-time cookbook writer, camping fan and mother of two, Katy Holder, has created and personally road-tested 80 healthy and delicious recipes that are best eaten beside a roaring campfire. All use fresh ingredients and minimal cooking equipment, and range from one-pot dishes and barbecue delights to meals for the kids to make.

It's practical and easy to follow and, thanks to Katy's years of experience in

styling food and writing cookbooks, the Hungry Campers Cookbook is also gorgeous enough to take its place on your shelf next to your celebrity tomes.

Available from bookshops or online at [www.exploreaustralia.net.au](http://www.exploreaustralia.net.au) \$29.95 in paperback and \$14.95 in e-book.

→ **Time to Roam Australia has six books to giveaway. Simply email or write in and tell us why you just can't camp without this cookbook. Send to [info@timetoroam.com.au](mailto:info@timetoroam.com.au) or 10 Dover Rd Botany NSW 2019. Ends Nov 30 2013.**

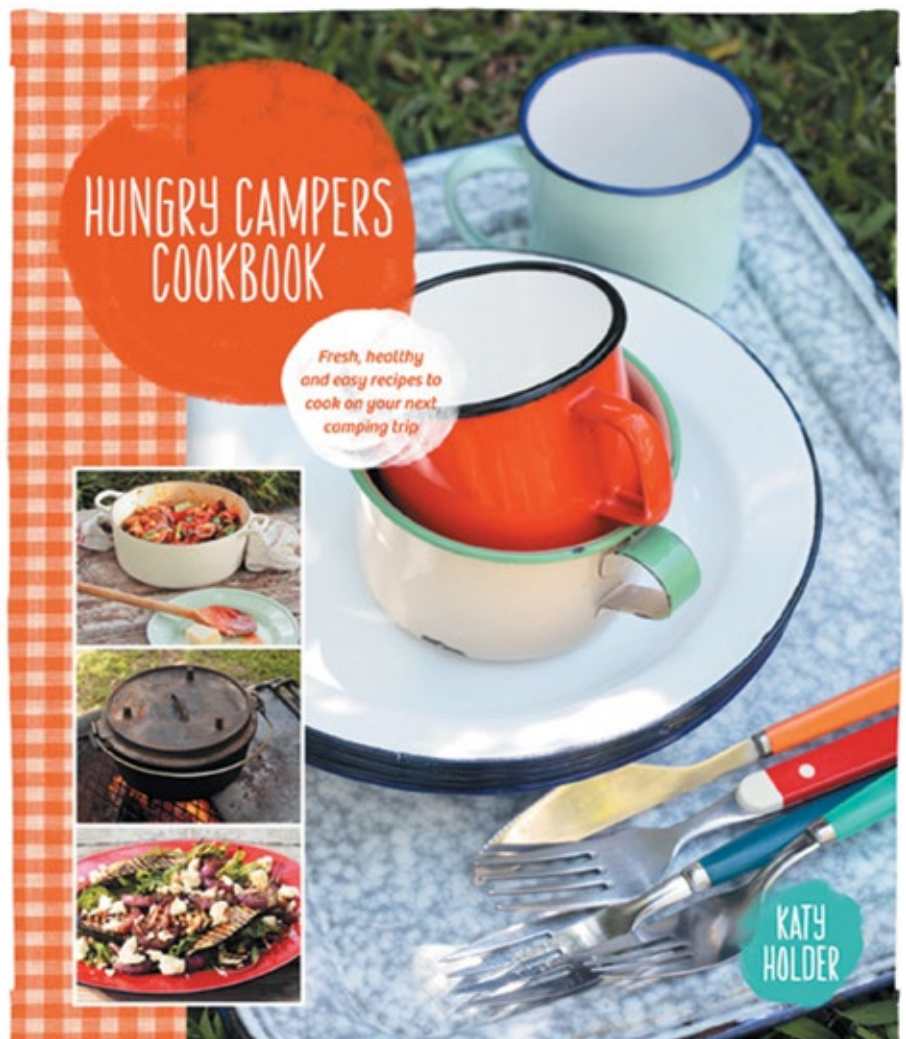
## Webasto Thermo and Comfort proudly celebrates 15 years in Australia

In 1998 Webasto purchased Vermeulen Hollandia B.V., a Dutch company trading here in Australia fitting after-market sunroofs for the automotive industry. Since then, Webasto has served Australia and New Zealand as the market leader in unroofs.

Webasto Australia's Managing Director, Christian Mahr said, "Looking at the company 15 years on, Webasto Australia has certainly grown from a single product aftermarket sunroof supplier into an innovative air-conditioning, heating and sunroof specialist and market leader.

We continue to develop new innovative cooling and heating products and set new standards within the industry. Our focus is to provide outstanding service and exceed customer expectations to retain existing customers and secure new business."

→ **For more information on Webasto and their full range of products visit [www.webasto.com.au](http://www.webasto.com.au)**

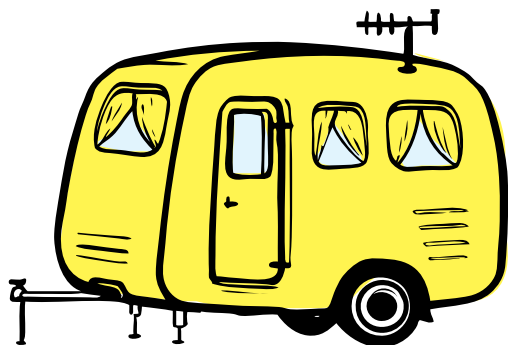
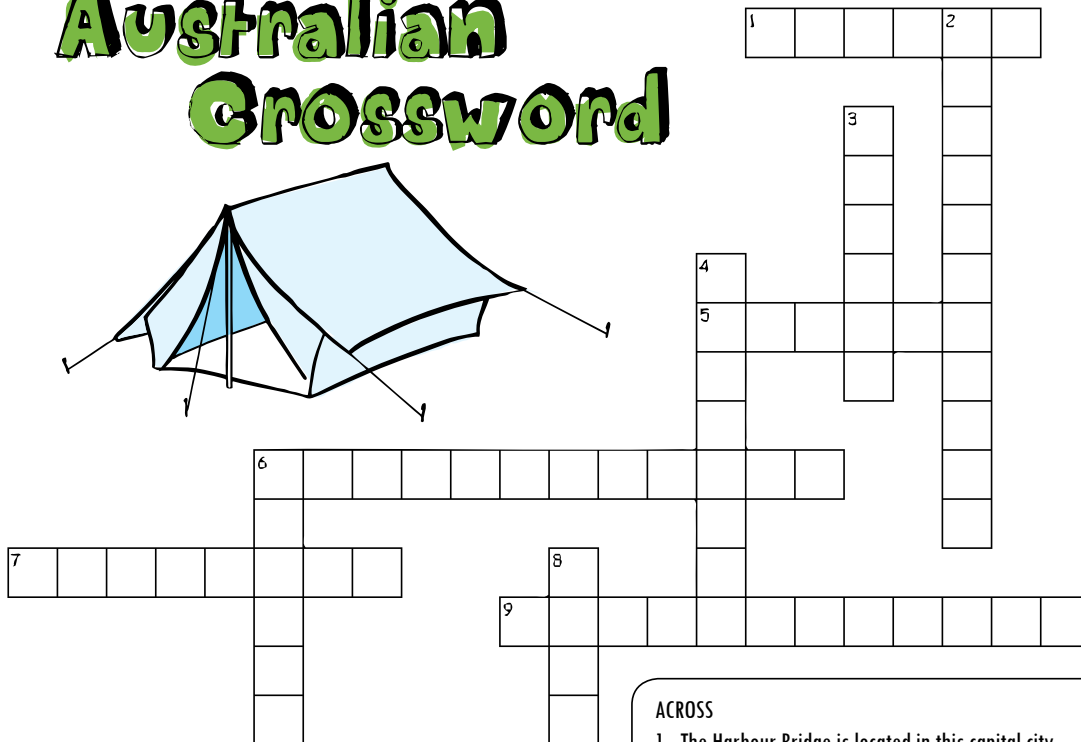
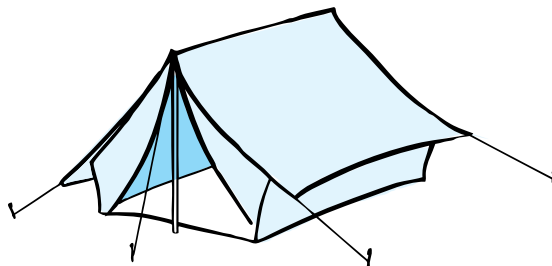




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To enter scan our QR Code! (Winner chosen at random)



# Australian Crossword



**ACROSS**

- 1 - The Harbour Bridge is located in this capital city
- 5 - The Tasmanian city on the Derwent River
- 6 - Visit this town to see The Big Banana
- 7 - The capital city of South Australia
- 9 - A well known town in the middle of Australia

**DOWN**

- 2 - This tall attraction is located in Melbourne
- 3 - The name of the ocean on the western side of Australia
- 4 - The name of the official residence of the Australian Prime Minister in Canberra
- 6 - A popular North Queensland city
- 8 - This lake is found in Mount Gambier

Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?  
A: An Investigator

Q: What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish?  
A: Every morning you'll rise and shine!

Q: What do lawyers wear to court?  
A: Lawsuits!

Q: What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?  
A: You can't tuna fish.

Q: What do you call a computer floating in the ocean?  
A: A Dell Rolling in the Deep.

Q: Did you hear about that new broom?  
A: It's sweeping the nation!

## jokes

ACROSS: (1) Sydney, (2) Hobart, (3) Cairns, (4) The Lodge, (5) Eureka Tower, (6) Adelaide, (7) Alice Springs, (8) Melbourne, (9) Darwin  
DOWN: (1) Sydney, (2) Hobart, (3) Cairns, (4) The Lodge, (5) Eureka Tower, (6) Adelaide, (7) Alice Springs, (8) Melbourne, (9) Darwin







### Heritage potholes

Lorraine Keen sent in this photo taken near her home at Nimbin NSW. She says the sign has since been removed but the potholes remain!

**Have you seen a funny sign while roaming Australia?**  
**Send us a pic:**  
**info@timetoram.com.au**



From Con Terry's postcard collection. Camping in France Circa 1974. The joys of camping!



### Toying with Caravans By Alan Stevens

Norev is a brand as well known to generations of French children as Matchbox and Corgi toys are to English-speakers.

The company was founded in 1946 and is the family name Veron, spelled backwards.

Norev has produced both plastic and metal die cast cars, highly regarded for their excellent detail.

The company moved upscale with new diecast collectables aimed at adults and in 2006.

It remains based near Lyon in France, although today manufactures toys in China.

Pictured: A detailed 1955 Norev Henon caravan on 1/43 scale.

Alan Stevens is a caravan collector and historian and can be contacted at [www.vintagecaravanhire.com.au](http://www.vintagecaravanhire.com.au)



### Emu Park QLD 4710

Emu Park, population just over 2000, on Queensland's Capricorn has been a popular beach destination since a railway line was built from Rockhampton in 1888. Today it's a lot quieter than the neighbouring town of Yeppoon, 21km north and there are several excellent caravan parks nearby. We were impressed at the sense of humour displayed by the local hardware store.



# WHAT'S ON



Nambucca Lanterns

## NSW

**October 14 to 20**

### **Australian Caravan Clubs Annual Rally, Mudgee**

Around 250 caravan and RVs are expected to attend the Australian Caravan Club's annual rally. The national muster will include seminars on RV-related topics, social activities and outings to local attractions. Info: [www.australiancaravanclub.com.au](http://www.australiancaravanclub.com.au)

**October 17 to 27**

### **Orange Wine Week**

A great opportunity to sample all the wines this premium food and wine district has to offer. Take in the beautiful spring days of the NSW Central Tablelands and enjoy the heritage surrounds of the City of Orange. Info: [www.tasteorange.com.au](http://www.tasteorange.com.au)

**November 30, December 1**

### **Nambucca River Festival**

Macksville comes alive with one of the most varied festivals of the season featuring local food, entertainment and water events on the Nambucca. A highlight is the lantern parade on Saturday night. Info: [www.nambuccariverfestival.com.au](http://www.nambuccariverfestival.com.au)



Bicheno food fest



Nambucca River

## QUEENSLAND

**October 12, 13**

### **Townsville Greek Festival**

Embrace Greek and Australian cultures over a weekend of free non-stop entertainment, wonderful cuisine, music and dance. Try your luck at olive spitting and grape stomping. Info: [www.greekfest.com.au](http://www.greekfest.com.au)

**November 15, 16**

### **Troy Dunn Invitational Rodeo, Townsville**

One of the greatest bull riding events in Australia bringing together 14 of the country's

top ranked riders to compete along with eight international riders representing from the USA, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. The bulls have been hand-picked by Australia's only ro world champion, Troy Dunn. Info: [www.troydunninvitational.com.au](http://www.troydunninvitational.com.au)

**November 17**

### **2013 Gold Coast Car Show**

See the colour and class of this fantastic display of cars from the 1900s to the latest makes and models. Featuring Vintage, Muscle Cars, Classic Cars, Street, Hot Rods, Dragsters, 4x4s, Utes, Trucks and Bikes. Info: [www.goldcoastcarshow.com.au](http://www.goldcoastcarshow.com.au)



# National Caravan & Camping Shows

## Sunshine Coast Caravan, Camping & Boating Expo

18 - 20 October Stockland Park, Kawana, Sunshine Coast QLD

## Toowoomba Spring Camping & Lifestyle Expo

25 - 27 October, Toowoomba Showgrounds QLD

## Brisbane Pre-Christmas Caravan and Camping Sale

31 October - November 3, RNA Showgrounds, Bowen Hills QLD

## South Coast Caravan, Camping & Holiday Expo

8 - 10 November, Mackay Park Batemans Bay NSW

## Bendigo Leisurefest

22 - 24 November, Bendigo Racecourse VIC

Auswide Motorhome Club made Wauchope NSW their destination for their 2013 Annual get together for six days in September. Just over 80 vehicles ranging from converted 1970s buses to the latest sleek motorhomes travelled from as far as Tasmania. Auswide Motorhomes 2014 meet will be in Penola SA.



National Vice President George Andrews (left) and National Secretary Jim Marshall

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### October 18

#### Broome Full Moon Beach Walk

A five kilometre moonlit walk along the famous Cable Beach with music, poetry and stories provided along the way by guest artists and entertaining locals. Info [www.environskimberley.org.au/event](http://www.environskimberley.org.au/event)

### Till October 30

#### Celebration of Mount Barker Wildflowers

Banksia Farm is home to an 11 acre arboretum with all 78 Banksia species, most of the 98 Dryandra species and many other showy natives. The gardens abound with more than 45 bird species. Info: [www.wildflowerswa.com](http://www.wildflowerswa.com)

### 16, 17 November

#### Perth Heritage Days

A chance to get to know the wonderful old parts of this modern city that escaped the wrecker's ball. Now in its fifth year, this is one of Perth's fastest growing annual events. Info: [www.heritageperth.com.au](http://www.heritageperth.com.au)



ACT Botswana

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### October 6 to 13

#### World Solar Challenge – Darwin to Adelaide

Attracting teams and individuals from all over the world, cars cover the 3,000 kilometres from Darwin to Adelaide powered only by the sun. Info: [www.worldsolarchallenge.org](http://www.worldsolarchallenge.org)

### October 26, 27

#### CheeseFest Adelaide

Australia's biggest artisan cheese festival set in the picturesque Rymill Park. Info: [www.cheesefest.com.au](http://www.cheesefest.com.au)

### November 22-24

#### Gorgeous Festival, Fleurieu Peninsula

An annual music, food and wine festival held in picturesque McLaren Vale. Info: [www.gorgeousfestival.com.au](http://www.gorgeousfestival.com.au)

## NT

### November 29, 30

#### Chairman's XI versus England

Alice Springs hosts its first international cricket in 13 years with England playing the Chairman's XI between the First Ashes Test and Second Ashes Test. Traeger Park Oval is perfectly set against the backdrop of the MacDonnell Ranges.

## ACT

### Til Oct 18

#### Windows To The World

Thirty diplomatic missions open their gates to

reveal the beautiful landscapes and superb architecture of Canberra's embassies and high commissions. Explore the customs, sounds and cultures of Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa all in one day with performances, exhibits and displays.

Info: [www.canberra100.com.au](http://www.canberra100.com.au)

### From Nov 29

#### Anzac Voices, Australian War Memorial

Marking the centenary of the First World War, this exhibition features treasures from the War Memorial's archives. The voices of the ANZACs will be presented through their letters and diaries.

Info: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

## TASMANIA

### From November 12

#### A Creative Century, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston

A look at how mostly European-influenced arts and decorative objects were developed in Tasmania's first century using local materials. [www.qvmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au)

### November 23

#### Bicheno Food and Wine Festival

A one-day festival celebrating the food and wine of the East Coast Region of Tasmania, down with some great local blues and roots rhythms. Enjoy freshly shucked oysters straight from the sea.

[www.bichenofestivals.com.au](http://www.bichenofestivals.com.au)



# Celebrity Camper - Barry Du Bois

**BARRY 'BAZ' DU BOIS**  
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MAESTRE AND  
DR CHRIS BROWN,  
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**Where did you go for camping holidays when you were young?**

Dad, Mum, my brother, sister and I used to camp in a tent for the entire school holidays at a little beach on the south coast of NSW near Kiama. All of our cousins would be there. This time was amazing to me – fishing, swimming and exploring – we did it all. It was a place where you were safe but still it was an adventure.

My dad was a hard worker but loved to spend as much time together as a family as possible. I remember one year during the 1970s driving down the coast in our brand new station wagon. We were slowing down as we went through Kiama and we could see our reflection in the shop windows, the roof racks were loaded right up. While stopped at a crossing, a kid in the street said to his Dad, "look at that car Dad, they are the luckiest people in the world". He was right, it's a day that I will never forget.

Later in life, the family started to water ski and we got a little cabin at Burrunjuck

dam near Yass which is where my dad was brought up.

**What has been your favourite place to camp and why?**

My 13 year old Nephew does not have his Dad in his life and we spend a lot of time together.

When I started on TV I bought a Toyota Land Cruiser and set it up for camping with a fold out tent and all our camping gear. We had it for two years and travelled to many great spots, leaving it at airports and mechanic shops when I had to fly back for filming.

One of my favourite times was again on the south coast of NSW at a place called Mimosa Rocks. We stayed right on the water for a week and lived off what we caught. It was a great adventure.

I also have a big BMW GS 1200 motor bike which is what they ride the Paris to Dakar on and we have all the camping gear on that as well. We will often spend two nights



Barry enjoying the great outdoors, top right, an early shot with Barry second from left along with sister Elizabeth and friends.

camping and on the third, we check into a B&B or hotel for a clean up.

Recently I had a recent fantastic ride through the Snowy Mountains via Thredbo and into Victoria – it’s an amazing landscape in Autumn especially.

**Tell us about some of your favourite camping memories.**

In 1983 (I think), after an extended water skiing holiday, my brother and I still had a few bucks left and we decided to hitch a ride down to Melbourne from Sydney and then jumped on the ship to Tassie.

The two of us and a mate headed down the east coast camping every night, mostly for free. Sometimes you would pay a dollar a night which would include showers and a fire pit.

As it happened, Tassie was in the world spotlight because of the Gordon below Franklin Dam site controversy. There was a huge protest and people had come from all over the world. I wasn’t overly politically minded at the time but there were a lot of girls protesting so we joined the team. Our protest (and relationships!) were short lived but our time in Tassie lasted another two months.

We hitched a ride with a couple about our age who were meeting friends in the beautiful fishing village of Bicheno. We skin dived for lobster Abalone and fresh fish – I

reckon I put on a couple of kilos that week! The camp site was \$2.00 per week including showers and amenities. The sky was clear and beautiful, the ocean was plentiful and the locals extremely friendly.

**Any not so favourite camping memories or experiences?**

Not many but on the same trip to Tassie we were camped under a tree and we arrived too late to set up the tent.

The mozzies were so bad they nearly carried us away, the sound of them buzzing was terrible. I was completely covered by my sleeping bag trying to protect myself, but they were still getting us. And it was freezing.

Then my brother kept telling me to put my head out of my bag because he thought he could hear someone. We were a long way from anywhere so it was a little freaky. Suddenly, out of the blue, a possum fell out of the tree above and landed on me. It screamed, I screamed and that was that for me. We hiked three hours till we found a town and sunrise. My sleeping bag needed a wash after that!

**Do you have any camping tips? Must do’s and don’ts?**

My main tips are to make sure you get out there, and only take what you need. There is nothing more frustrating than unpacking all



the unnecessary expensive stuff to find the simple practical thing you need.

**What’s on your camping location wish list?**

Camping is on hold for a year or so with my two bubs only 12 months old (Barry has twins).

I am dreaming about camping under the stars with the kids out in the desert. I retired in 2006 and spent a lot of time on a yacht in the Mediterranean. I sailed down to North Africa from Sicily to meet a mate and we spent a couple of weeks in the Sahara. I have not seen a lot of Australia’s deserts but I imagine from my experience in Africa they must be amazing. After living on the coast for a long time, I want to make sure we see some of our deserts. ♦



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## LOST FOUND OR STOLEN.

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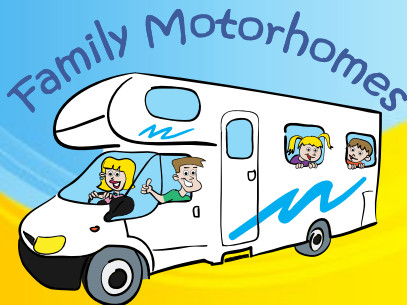


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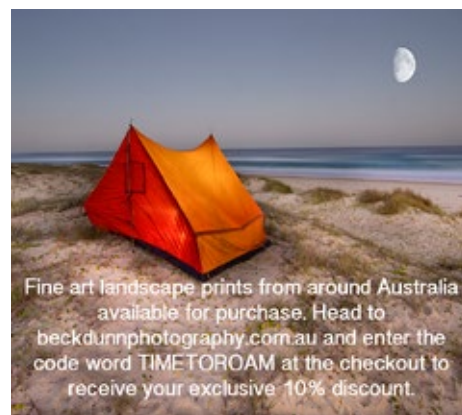
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# Getting a jump on flea control this summer

Story by Kelly Zammit

**When it comes to flea control, there are so many available options that it's easy to become overwhelmed and confused as to what's best for your pet.**

When it comes to flea control, there are so many available options that it's easy to become overwhelmed and confused as to what's best for your pet.

In order to limit the number of fleas in your pet's environment, it helps to know a little about the flea life cycle.

Adult fleas are so small that they can be difficult to detect, much less eliminate from your home. They feed on blood and then

The most resistant stages of the flea life cycle are the immature stages, with very few products able to kill flea eggs. However there are some simple things you can do to help reduce flea eggs in your environment such as washing pet bedding in water hotter than 60°C and rinsing in cold water with eucalyptus or lavender oil added. Vacuuming carpets and floorboards regularly removes some eggs but also stimulates them to hatch so that you can then kill the fleas via the methods discussed below. Don't forget to seal the vacuum bag in an air-tight bag before disposing of it, otherwise the fleas will hatch in the bag and jump out. If a flea infestation occurs, consider steam cleaning



- Topical products involve applying a small amount of liquid to the back of your dog's neck to kill fleas for the next month. If your dog swims a lot, this may reduce the efficacy as the chemicals are distributed in the oil on the dog's coat. Another drawback is that small children or cats may touch the dog's neck in the first 24 hours and get the product on their skin. Some of these topical liquids are toxic to cats so check with your vet before using these.
- There is also an oral tablet that will quickly kill any adult fleas that are on your pet at that one point in time, however it has no long-lasting effects and fleas can jump back onto your pet soon after.

If you have only a low flea burden then you may want to consider a gentler approach. Repellent herbs including fennel, sage and lemongrass can be planted near the kennel or cattery.

This overview should provide the starting point to enable you, with the help of your vet, to develop a tailored flea treatment plan for your pet and enjoy your travelling without itching and scratching.

Kelly Zammit is a veterinarian at All Natural Pet Care, Russell Lea NSW [www.naturalvet.com.au](http://www.naturalvet.com.au).



produce a staggering 40 to 50 eggs per day, up to 2,000 in their lifetime.

These eggs fall off and tiny larvae hatch in one to six days. Indoors, flea larvae live deep in carpeting or under furniture. Outside, they develop best in shaded areas, under leaves or in sandy environments. A mature larva transforms into a pupa inside a silk cocoon, and the adult flea will usually emerge in three to five weeks. However, a flea can wait inside the cocoon for up to 350 days until conditions are best for survival. They are stimulated to hatch by body heat, movement and exhaled carbon dioxide.

carpet, which kills off larvae as well, or using a flea bomb or fogger inside the house containing an insect growth regulator.

Once the fleas hatch, they are more susceptible to chemical attack. If you have a large flea problem or your dog is allergic to fleas, you will need a chemical product.

- There are monthly flavoured tablets available from your vet that will quickly kill any fleas that bite your dog before they are able to reproduce. Although they are conventional drugs, these are actually made from a natural product found in certain bacteria.

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