

# SEOQA



travel | leisure | lifestyle

Winter 2012 Edition



Ti model shown

There's no better way to find your own path than with a Nissan Pathfinder. And we've filled it up for you. To start with there's the upgraded 2.5 litre turbo-diesel engine that produces an awesome 140kW of power and 450Nm of torque.

\*iPod is a registered trade mark of Apple Inc.

That gives you a 3,000kg braked towing capacity. It also gives you reduced fuel consumption and emissions. All models feature Bluetooth\*, the versatility of 7 seats, and the additional safety of Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC).

SHIFT the way you move



# Nissan Pathfinder. Find your own path.

The ST-L model offers 6 airbags, Intelligent Key, leather seat trim, reversing sensors, plus heated and electrically adjustable front seats with driver seat memory. While the top of the line Ti adds Sat Nav, reversing camera, music box

hard drive and full iPod\* connectivity. So whether your path leads to the beach, the mountains or the outback, make your first trip to [nissan.com.au/pathfinder](http://nissan.com.au/pathfinder) or your Nissan Dealer.

# FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME TO OUR first issue of the new and improved SEQA Magazine. This magazine was created on the foundation of those who love to travel and enhance their lifestyle by trying new and exciting things. If you share the same passion as us, then you have picked the right magazine!

SEQA operates on the motto - Travel, Leisure, Lifestyle - which means that everything in our magazine relates to these three key elements. When we talk about travel we not only focus on the destination, but also the journey, from different forms of transport to the sights and towns you will pass on the way. For us, leisure is about focusing on the activities that you can participate in, whether you are young or old, no matter what state you live in or how much spare time you have. We all like to add a little something extra to our lifestyles so we will bring you new and exciting experiences you can indulge in to enhance your current way of life.

I have recently returned from a six week adventure overseas, two of which I spent exploring the wonderful country of Canada. This winter wonderland experience left me speechless and I knew I had to share it with you all in our International article. While you can get in early and book for the next Canada ski season, we have also included a feature for those who want to explore New Zealand's ski fields this winter. I would also like to introduce a segment called Experience This where we have chosen a business from each state that offers a very unique experience for those visiting the area. It is worth checking out these places if you're swinging by them or looking to plan your next holiday as they will provide laughs and memories for everyone.

In my home state of NSW lies the country gem of the Orange Region. I have spent a great deal of time down there on our family friends farm and it is always a welcomed escape from the busy lifestyle of Sydney. This issue we explore what this region has to offer and why it is the perfect time to take a country break and explore our Australian countryside.

These are just a few of our articles in our Winter issue with plenty more on the following pages.

Here at SEQA magazine we are all about you and providing you with the opportunity to create memories you will have for life. As this magazine is all about our readers, we would love to hear from you. Whether it be a suggestion on something to write about, a comment on the magazine or you have your own experience or story you wish to share with us, we welcome each and every one and will even feature your stories and comments in our next issue. Just send them straight to me at [chloe@ozroamer.com.au](mailto:chloe@ozroamer.com.au)

I hope you enjoy the Winter edition of SEQA and take action on the adventures you wish to experience in your life. Even if it's in your own city, there may be something new you have never tried!

Stay safe and enjoy life,

*Chloe Fraser*

## EDITORIAL

**EDITOR** Chloe Fraser [chloe@ozroamer.com.au](mailto:chloe@ozroamer.com.au)

**SUB EDITORS** Rob Fraser [rob@myrv.com.au](mailto:rob@myrv.com.au), Vicki Fraser [vicki@ozroamer.com.au](mailto:vicki@ozroamer.com.au)

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Natalie Sing [info@nataliesingdesign.com.au](mailto:info@nataliesingdesign.com.au)

## CONTRIBUTORS

Chloe Fraser, Rob Fraser, Vicki Fraser, Steve Tierney, Brianna Fraser, Steve Trembath, Leonie Orton.

## EDITORIAL ENQUIRES

Chloe Fraser [chloe@ozroamer.com.au](mailto:chloe@ozroamer.com.au)

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRES

Chloe Fraser [chloe@ozroamer.com.au](mailto:chloe@ozroamer.com.au), Vicki Fraser [vicki@ozroamer.com.au](mailto:vicki@ozroamer.com.au)



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# CANADA

VANCOUVER

THE ROCKIES

JASPER





DA

*By Chloe Fraser*

*Canada is a country that offers stunning scenery, sophisticated cities and provides the best of both worlds. Over the Summer break I explored Canada's finest for two weeks and discovered what Vancouver, The Rockies and Jasper have to offer the 35 million tourists visiting Canada each year.*

## VANCOUVER

Known as the International and Cultural destination of Canada, Vancouver has developed a reputation as a bustling city influenced by diverse heritages nestled amongst some of Canada's most beautiful nature. To understand the essence of Vancouver you need to consider the five cultures that have made the city what it is today. The Japanese influence is evident in the multitude of public gardens, most famously Stanley Park, and the cherry trees that bloom city wide. The Chinese, Indian and Italian influences are evident in Chinatown, Main Street from East 49th Ave and Commercial Drive respectively, most notably impacting the cuisine and shopping districts of Vancouver. However, the most culturally rich impact always comes from the roots of a town, The First Nations People.

Their influence is still heavily represented today with the towering totem poles in Vancouver's parks, a number of aboriginal art galleries and Stanley Park's Klahowya Village that provides an interactive insight into the First Nation's way of life.

If you are looking for a more relaxed vibe where you can immerse yourself in the Vancouver lifestyle you would want to visit the Downtown area. It is full of shopping districts, eateries from fine dining to cart food and of course Stanley Park. Covering 1,000 acres this park, opened in 1886, has plenty to offer to all of its yearly 8 million visitors. A highlight is walking the 8.8 km Seawall that loops around the park and hugs the Vancouver Harbour, providing spectacular views of the sky scraping towers of North Vancouver. A visit to the Aquarium provides fun for all of the family with over 70,000 creatures, including the fascinating Beluga whale. There is also a magnificent display of the First Nations totem poles, various pieces of art and statues, colourful garden displays, the Stanley Park Pavilion, a few swimming beaches, sports facilities such as tennis and golf, horse drawn tours, a miniature railway and a choice of four dining options. What more could you possibly want! There is even a shuttle bus that will take you around the gardens for a quick overview of the park, however be warned, this does not run in winter as I discovered. You could easily spend a full day at Stanley Park, which is a quick trolley bus ride from downtown, and I believe it is a must see for all who visit Vancouver. For more information please visit: [www.seestanleypark.com](http://www.seestanleypark.com)



Another must see this city has to offer is Grouse Mountain, known as the peak of Vancouver. Located a 15 minute ferry and bus ride away from Downtown Vancouver, this is the closest place to ski in winter and hike in summer. As I visited in winter this mountain was truly a sight to see. The cable car ride up showcased a stunning view over the city and its surrounding mountains along with never ending views of pine trees covered in a thick layer of snow, truly magical. Once you have reached the top, there are plenty of activities to participate in. Of course in winter skiing the 26 runs, including 14 night runs, is an absolute must as is going snow shoeing along the 10 km of trails. These are available for hiking in the summer. Grouse Mountain also offer ice skating, sleigh rides, multiple terrain parks and the interesting ski limos which my Dad went on and had an absolute ball proving you don't need to know how to ski or snowboard to enjoy the feeling of zipping down a slope. There is also the Eye of the Wind, a massive wind turbine that allows you to stand inside a glass 360 degree viewing area. For the adventurous there are a total of five different zipline

courses to experience across the mountain and even paragliding. Grouse Mountain also offers a theater, four helijet tours, a bird display, lumberjack show and seven dining options. Two bears, Grinder and Coola call Grouse Mountain home and you can see them during summer and watch them on camera hibernating during winter. This mountain is also a refuge for grey wolves, hummingbirds and many other creatures. If you want a moment to remember, I highly recommend staying to watch the sun set over Vancouver from the balcony and sipping a hot chocolate. No matter what time of year you visit or for how long, Grouse Mountain is a beautiful sight and fun filled for all. For more information please visit: [www.grousemountain.com](http://www.grousemountain.com)

Vancouver can be described as very stylish; from their architectural designs and gardens to the people who inhabit this wonderful city. It is also worth mentioning Vancouver's dedication to becoming an environmentally friendly city. Almost all of their taxis are the eco-friendly Toyota Prius, the trolley busses are run on electricity, they are very big on recycling and there is very little rubbish anywhere.

Well done Vancouver, not only is this city advancing with technology but it is also taking time to care for the precious environment in which it is situated, ensuring that the beauty of Vancouver that we witness today will be around for generations to come. Vancouver offers a wide range of activities for everyone and just one worth mentioning is the Capilano Suspension Bridge. If you're in the Downtown area and looking for an excellent place to eat, visit the restaurant Wings next to the Howard Johnson Hotel on Granville street, it's affordable and great quality food for people of all ages.

For those visiting Vancouver, visit their website for more information: [www.tourismvancouver.com](http://www.tourismvancouver.com)

## VANCOUVER TO JASPER ON 'THE CANADIAN'

Known as one of the most spectacular train trips in the world, and now I know why, is VIA Rail's 'The



Canadian' train through the Rockies from Vancouver to Toronto. While this trip stretches across the country, I only caught it to Jasper, however I saw some of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.

When booking your train trip it is important that you choose the correct class. There is the economy class which offers you a very comfortable seat each with an electrical outlet. This is the option that I chose, along with my sister and my father. Since there were three of us the very friendly rail staff let us on first to get a set of four seats that face each other. The seats are very roomy, recline and also have a leg rest that comes up. This ticket also provides access to a Skyline cart which is located upstairs with some seats and tables to enjoy the view from the clear dome.



The other option you can choose is the sleeper plus car, which offers rooms for one, two, three or four people and even a suite. These rooms offer a lie down bed and a shower with a couch to sit on during the day. This ticket also has access to a dome and your meals are catered for. The economy class ticket suited perfectly for our trip to Jasper as we were only on the train for one night, however if you were going any further, for example the four night trip to Toronto, I would definitely recommend the sleeper car.

The views that this trip through the Rockies have to offer are breathtaking. My father has done this trip during Spring which he said was beautiful, however seeing it in winter was so different and magical. The mountains, trees and fields covered in a thick layer of snow and the frozen lakes and rivers with the occasional rapid water are just some of the natural beauty these Rocky Mountains have to offer. At times the train track is lined with trees covered in snow and sitting in the dome you get an amazing tunnel-like view of the train winding its way through the snow, forest and mountains. It is the kind of thing you see on postcards and in the movie *The Polar Express*. The tallest mountain in the Rockies is also on this route, Mount Robson, standing at 3945 meters it is an impressive sight to see. We also saw numerous glaciers that had frozen



over and I am sure Mother Nature's display continues from Jasper through to Toronto. In the summer and spring time there are flowers in full bloom and plenty of wildlife including mountain sheep.

While on board the Canadian train trip there is a restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and also a cafeteria to grab some snacks. It is important to





note however that if you were planning to access the internet on this trip, the Canadian train is not equipped with Wi-Fi and cell service frequently drops out. Many people may worry about their luggage if they are traveling with many bags, as we did because we were traveling for six weeks. VIA Rail are very accommodating and the luggage restriction on this train includes three checked bags of 23 kg each and two carry on bags of 23 kg each per person with additional check on bags available for a cost. A lot better than flying!

While some may view a train trip as just a means of transport from one destination to another, the Canadian trip traveling from Vancouver through Jasper, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg to Toronto really is a destination in itself. This train journey allows you to view some of Canada's finest scenery and honestly brings a new meaning to the old saying, 'It's not the destination, it's the journey'. For more information visit: [www.viarail.ca/en/trains/rockies-and-pacific/toronto-vancouver-canadian](http://www.viarail.ca/en/trains/rockies-and-pacific/toronto-vancouver-canadian)

## JASPER

After our overnight train journey we arrived in the quaint little town of Jasper, in Alberta Canada, located a 417 km drive

from Calgary. While our stay was only an overnight stop, this town had quite an impression on us and the potential activities surrounding the area made us realise that when we come back, we will make our stay longer. The entire town was covered in a thick layer of snow and in the morning while we walked to the bakery for some breakfast, it was snowing! We stayed the night at the Tonquin Inn, which boasts 137 rooms, a gym, indoor pool and whirlpool, two outdoor hot tubs, three saunas and pet friendly rooms. The staff were very friendly and helpful and we would definitely recommend it to anyone who is staying in the area. There is also a large variety of hotels, lodges, cabins and camping grounds in the area.

In 1984 Jasper was listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and is one of the world's largest protected areas at 20,000 km. This national park region has some amazing sights including the Columbia Icefield, which is the largest south of Alaska at 389 square km.

Visitors can also explore Maligne Lake, which is the world's second largest glacier-fed lake, and the Maligne Canyon, with magnificent 50 m limestone walls. There is also the Miette Hot Springs, Lac Beauvert, Sunwapta Falls, Mt Edith Cavell and Goat lookout. To add further to the natural beauty surrounding Jasper is Athabasca





Falls, known as the most powerful and breathtaking falls the Canadian Rockies has to offer. Stutfield Glacier can be viewed from the road and showcases 900 vertical meters of double icefalls. While these all may be incredibly picturesque, by far the best is the Icefields Parkway stretching the 230 km from Jasper to Lake Louise, a drive that all of those who visit the area must complete.

While this town may only be home to 5,000 people, the 2 million annual visitors certainly have a lot to explore. During summer visitors can indulge in white water rafting, camping, golfing, hiking, horse riding or biking along the 1,300 km of trails, go fishing, diving, boating or go up the Jasper Tramway on Whistler Mountain. During winter, Whistler Mountain and others in the area provide some of the best downhill and cross country skiing, snow boarding, snow shoeing and ice skating that Canada has to offer. Jasper is home to around 69 species of wildlife including the grizzly bear, wolves, black bear, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat over 82 songbirds, 5 amphibians and 18 species of fish.

For families who visit the area, Jasper has an aquatic center and for those who are fitness conscious, there is a multi purpose fitness center that has a swimming pool,

climbing wall, ice skating rink and gym. If you are looking to delve deeper into the history of the Jasper region, the Yellowhead Museum has a variety of displays and artifacts that follow the natural and human development of Jasper. With the large variety of activities available, the choice on how to fill your stay may seem overwhelming. Not to worry, Jasper has a variety of companies that offer tours to ensure that you see the best sights and make the most of your time in this small yet busy little town. For more information, visit: [www.jasper.travel](http://www.jasper.travel)

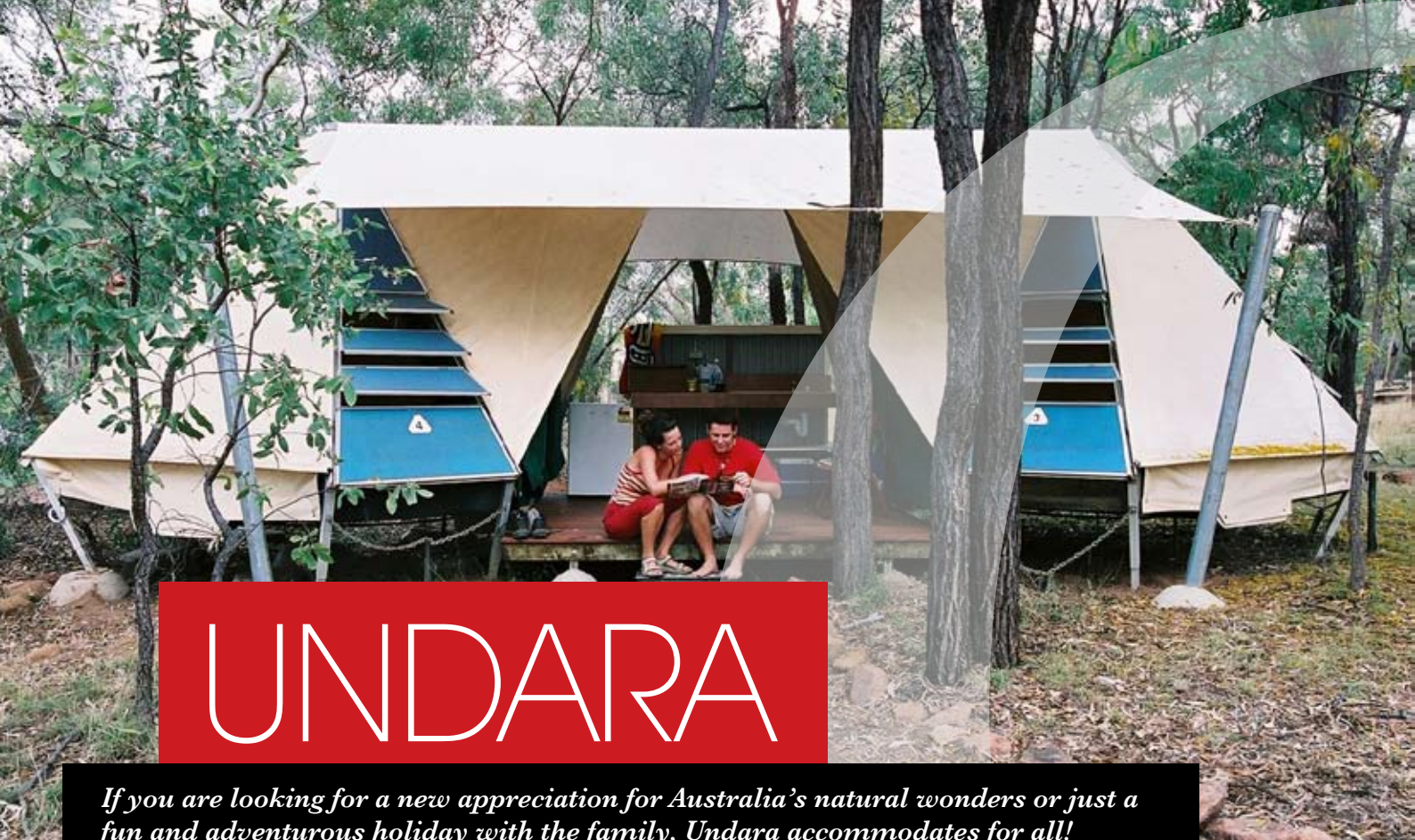
## WHY VISIT CANADA?

Canada is known to have some similarities to Australia, mainly the friendly attitude of the people and the stunning scenery it has to offer. I can confidently say after visiting this exciting country that yes, the people are indeed friendly and the scenery is in fact breathtaking, but in a completely different way to Australia. No matter what time of year you visit Vancouver, The Rockies or Jasper you will be treated to some of Mother Nature's finest work. The extremes in their beauty is immense. Summer showcases an abundance of flora and fauna while winter brings a



snowy wonderland. Canada provides an enjoyable experience for people of all ages and interest, from those who wish to enjoy the beauty from afar to those who want to climb the mountainous ranges. Vancouver, The Rockies and Jasper will not fail to impress and your trip will create memories and an appreciation that will last for a lifetime.

Thank you to Tourism Vancouver, Grouse Mountain, Via Rail and Tourism Jasper for providing information and photos featured in this article.



# UNDARA

*If you are looking for a new appreciation for Australia's natural wonders or just a fun and adventurous holiday with the family, Undara accommodates for all!*

*By Chloe Fraser*

## UNDARA LAVA TUBES

Australia is a country whose reputation is built on the wonders of our natural beauty and tucked away in the Gulf Savannah region of Northern Queensland is a true hidden gem of Mother Nature, the Undara Lava Tubes. These creations are a unique part of Australia's nature and were created by lava flowing through the region and hardening to form hollow tubes, the longest lava flow from a single volcanic crater in the world. The Undara Experience has won over 25 awards and in keeping with today's expectations they have achieved the Advance Ecotourism Accreditation. If you are looking for a new appreciation for Australia's natural wonders or just a fun and adventurous holiday with the family, Undara accommodates for all!

## WHERE IS UNDARA?

Undara is located 275km, a four and a half hour drive, southwest of Cairns or up to five and a half hours northwest of Townsville. Located along the Savannah Way the drives from either the east or west direction are spectacular. Coach transfers also run three times a week from Cairns. If driving is not your thing, the next best way is to travel by train on the historic Savannahlander. Departing Cairns and weaving its way through Heritage Listed sites you will be able to pass through the Kuranda Range and stop at scenic sights such as Barron Falls and Stoney Creek on your way to Undara. Flights are available through some tour packages and a private airstrip is located at Undara for those lucky guests to use.

## WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT UNDARA?

Undara offers a wide range of activities to cater to the adventurous and those who are looking to just lay back and appreciate the beauty. Undara also caters to kids of all ages and those who are mobility impaired. The park offers a range of eight walking trails, most of which are easy with a few challenging ones, ranging from 25 minutes to six hours in duration. These walks take guests around the trails to spectacular views over the volcanic landscape while enjoying plenty of flora and fauna along the way. The Undara Experience offers eight different tours to ensure that there is an experience for everyone. These allow you to get up close and personal with many of the surrounding wildlife, explore the lava tubes, learn about the history of these amazing wonders and simply revel in the beauty of some of Mother Nature's finest work. My personal favourite tour is the Lost World Adventure tour. This eight hour tour explores five areas of the lava tubes and visits the Kalkani Crater while also providing a full buffet lunch with morning and afternoon tea. This tour does require a moderate fitness level however it offers the largest variety of sights ensuring that you get the most out of your Undara experience.

For a truly unique experience visit Undara between December and March to experience the 250,000 microbats, that call the lava tubes home, flying out the tunnels in search of insects at dusk. This sight becomes even more impressive as the microbats exit the caves, the brown tree snakes, known as 'night tigers'

strike from their trees in an attempt to catch themselves a bat for dinner. It is a truly remarkable experience that Undara is able to offer.

For a complete outback experience there is a campfire set up every night for all guests to enjoy with the Savannah Guides offering campfire stories and singing songs on the guitar.

## WHAT ACCOMMODATION IS AT UNDARA?

Accommodation at Undara is a complete wilderness experience and offers an individual twist on accommodation quarters - providing guests with an opportunity to bunk in a restored railway carriage. Undara Experience founder, Gerry Collins, found some old unused carriages in the 80's and restored them to their former glory. They are now situated under Australia's traditional gum trees offering covered decks to observe your surroundings and have earned the title of Winner of Australia's Most Unique Accommodation. There are 25 of these rooms available, from single through to family size, with some also offering ensuites. If you have your own camping equipment, Undara offers 29 powered van sites, 23 drive up camp sites, central amenities block, individual campfire pits/barbeques. For people camping in larger groups there are Safari Shelters that have their own amenities block, undercover camp kitchen, power, campfire and room for 30+ two man tents.

For those who like the idea of camping without roughing it the Swag Tent Village is the way to go. These 25 permanent tents come with amenities, undercover camp kitchen, barbeque, fridge, electric hot plates, picnic table and chairs, electric lights, mattresses and your own kitchenette.

Budget travelers are able to stay in the Stockman's Quarters, which are a dormitory style accommodation offering 12 rooms with a total of 36 beds, privacy, shady kitchen area and central amenities.

## WHAT DOES UNDARA DO FOR ECOTOURISM?

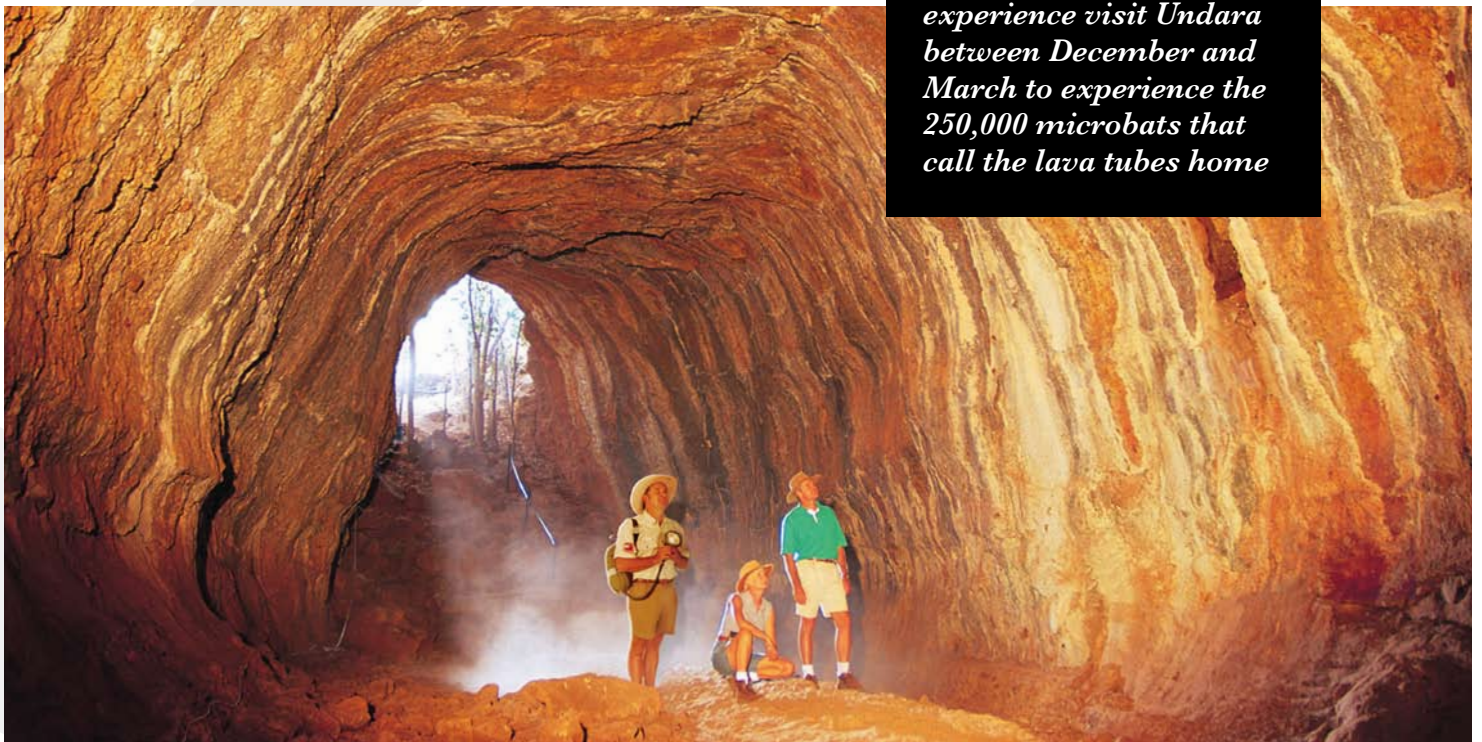
With many Australians and international visitors becoming more and more conscious of the environment, Ecotourism has started to play an increasing role in Australia's Tourism today. As defined by Ecotourism Australia, ecotourism is ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation. Undara works closely with the Savannah Guides who provide an informative and enjoyable experience while focusing on the preservation and conservation of the Savannah region of Queensland. Undara has also accomplished Advanced Ecotourism Accreditation from the official Ecotourism body, are engaged in Planet Safe Partnership and also Land for Wildlife Accreditation signifying their commitment to conserving the flora and fauna on their property. In 2006 Undara exercised their commitment to ecological sustainability by installing 10 water tanks with a capacity of 228,000 litres. This water is used in dishwashers, ice machines and elsewhere throughout Undara and has eased the pressure on the underground aquifer by around 25%.

Undara is a remarkable and unique piece of Australian environment that allows people of all ages and interest to enjoy the beauty Mother Nature has to offer. With their commitment to ecotourism, visitors can be assured that the wildlife they are seeing and the lava tube volcanic areas are being well preserved while also having a unique holiday experience from the accommodation right through to the sights they explore.

For further information, visit the Undara website at [www.undara.com.au](http://www.undara.com.au)

Thank you to Undara Experience for the photos featured in this article.

*For a truly unique experience visit Undara between December and March to experience the 250,000 microbats that call the lava tubes home*



# TRAVELING WITH TECHNOLOGY

*With all the gadgets that are released today, there is an abundance of technology to help make your travels easier and more memorable. Here are just some of the latest inventions to take with you on your next holiday.*

By Chloe Fraser

## TRIPBUTLER

Whenever you travel abroad, the one thing that worries almost everyone these days is the cost of data roaming. The phone companies charge ridiculous amounts, however the Austrian born 'TripButler' offers affordable access to password protected internet for up to five portable devices. Acting as a WiFi hotspot that runs for up to 10 hours, the TripButler is small and compact enough to fit in your pocket and within seconds of turning it on you have access to internet at speeds of up to 7.2mbit/sec.

To use the TripButler, all you have to do is order online by selecting the country you are visiting and how long for while it automatically creates a package for you. Your TripButler will be delivered to you within 7 days of placing your order. If you run out of Internet usage you can easily recharge per MB for only US\$0.027. The TripButler can also be used to make international calls, even to mobiles, for only US\$0.26 per minute! It can even be used for local multi-player games. To send it back, pop it in the provided envelope and into the post and TripButler will ensure that all personal data is deleted.

There is however a catch. This technology is very new and for that reason is only available in certain European countries. There are 42 countries in which it is available, so if you are traveling to Europe, you will be covered. Now to the cost, which is by far a lot cheaper than internet roaming. Keep in mind that this device supports up to 5 devices, which means you would alternatively pay 5 sets of international roaming data. For a 2 week trip on the multiple countries program covering all 42 supported countries, the TripButler will cost US \$98, that's only US\$7 per day! This includes 700MB of data and any extra data



will have to be added by you, ensuring that there are no hidden costs. There is also a US\$97 deposit that is refunded on return. This piece of technology is changing the way we use the internet while overseas and allows you to keep up to date without coming home to a huge bill from your telephone provider! [www.tripbutler.com/en/](http://www.tripbutler.com/en/)

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chloe@ozroamer.com.au and  
mention the TripButler to  
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recorded on the picture and even enables you to see where it was taken on a map. To ensure that your underwater photos are of the highest quality, the smart TG-810 senses when underwater and automatically activates i-Underwater Snapshot mode to optimise colour and white balance settings.

With Olympus 3D Technology, your camera will take two photos and combine them to create a dramatic effect when presented on a 3D device, even when underwater. When photos simply won't capture the moment, you can record widescreen HD clips. Another issue with photos is how to store them. It's a waste of space to take the multiple cords needed to transfer it to your computer, however, the Olympus TG-810 is fitted with WiFi, allowing you to easily transfer your photos to your laptop. You can also muck around with a variety of settings, take panoramic shots and be sure to never drown your waterproof camera with an inbuilt warning when you near 10m.

With 19.5 MB of internal memory, almost half an hour of recording time, a battery life of around 220 shots and all for under \$400, I am confident that the Olympus TG-810 will make an excellent camera to accompany you on your trips and capture moments so they can last a lifetime. <http://www.olympus.com.au/Products/Digital-Cameras/Tough/TG-810.aspx>

## OLYMPUS TG-810:

Traveling provides you with amazing experiences and it is essential that you have a good quality camera with you to capture all your memories. The Olympus TG-810 ticks basically all of the boxes for a camera to take on your travels. So what does it offer? While it is true that you can buy bigger cameras that are sometimes better quality, when traveling, size is essential. The 3 inch touch screen Olympus is compact and weighs only 221g.

Your travels may take you to diverse and different destinations each time, so it is important that your camera is compatible with it all. The Olympus TG-810 is crush resistant up to 100kg, waterproof up to 10m, shock proof up to 2m, dust proof and freeze proof up to -10 degrees celsius! It's not invincible, but it's bloody close! What about quality? Offering 14 megapixel photos and 5x wide angle optical zoom, you are sure to get a photo that will look great blown up on the living room wall.

Olympus has also equipped the TG-810 with the latest GPS technology which allows the location of each photo to be

## IPAD 2

Close to the date of publication, Apple announced the release of its highly anticipated sequel to their latest success, the iPad 2. Differing from the original iPad, this second generation iPad offers a 5 megapixel camera, breakthrough retina display thanks to 3.1 million pixels, over 200,000 extra Apps from the App store and ultra fast browsing with new WiFi technology and connections to the 4G network.

***Starting at \$539, the iPad 2 is set to be the next big hit for Apple. Stay tuned to SEQA magazine as we will be bringing you a full review on the iPad 2 shortly.***



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# SKI

## NEW ZEALAND

*kia ora*





*By Chloe Fraser*

What is your idea of the perfect ski holiday? Great snow? Gentle slopes or steep hills for thrills? Is it a variety of resorts or a buzzing après scene with the backdrop of picturesque scenery? Look no further, as New Zealand has all this plus more and could become the ideal winter paradise for your next ski holiday. With plenty of snow by the middle of May, the 2012 season is shaping up to one of the best!

There has never been a better time to book your New Zealand ski holiday with cheap flights across the Tasman and value for money ski packages on offer throughout the country's premiere ski resorts. Many packages include an exchangeable ski pass, which makes it possible to swap snow activities for off mountain adventures.

In fact each year it is usually the Australians that make up around 50% of all visitors to the NZ ski fields. Not only is there a longer snow season, higher slopes and generally better ski conditions, there is heli skiing, favourable exchange rate, adventure packed après ski conditions and heaps of fun!

A ski holiday in New Zealand is quite different from an Australian ski holiday. As New Zealand's ski areas are high in the mountains and many are on environmentally protected land there is limited on mountain (ski-in/ski-out) accommodation.

This means daily driving to the slopes, sometimes right to the peaks, or using the resort's transport facilities.

The ski areas provide excellent day services including ski hire, children's care and restaurants. However at nighttime other than some night skiing, the only people on the mountain are the maintenance staff! Après ski activity centers around the nearby resort towns located at the bottom of the ski areas. These towns are full service villages with bars, restaurants, accommodation, activities, spa services and retail shopping.

In 2012, Ski New Zealand are excited to announce some changes. The mypass card was introduced in 2010 and replaced the traditional paper and wire lift ticket. New for this season is the ability for guests to preload money onto their mypass card (mypass money). Mypass money will be able to be spent on any transaction on any of the three mountains - Coronet Peak and The Remarkables in Queenstown and Mt Hutt in Canterbury. The success of the performance rentals in 2011 has meant all three mountains have invested in more high end skis and snowboards so guests don't have to pay excess baggage to get their ski gear to NZ.

However, first things first, where exactly are you going to stage your New Zealand winter adventure?



With the exception of the North Island's Mt Ruapehu ski fields, which are home to arguably New Zealand's biggest, longest and highest ski areas, the rest of New Zealand's ski fields are located in the southern island.

## MT RUAPEHU

Mt Ruapehu, located in the central North Island is home to New Zealand's two largest ski areas (Whakapapa and Turoa). There's over 1800 hectares, the highest lift access in New Zealand at 2322m and one of the longest vertical descents in Australasia of 722m. It offers something for everyone, with world-class learner's facilities, along with some of the best natural terrain in the country.

It is situated in Tongariro National Park, which is classified as a dual World Heritage Site for its natural beauty and cultural significance. You can enjoy spectacular views over the entire central North Island including Mt Ngauruhoe, which featured as Mt Doom in the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy.

Shaping up to have an excellent season, Mt Ruapehu was experiencing snowfall to 1,200m and having over 20cm fall overnight in mid-May. The Turoa ski fields will be even better in 2012 with around 15-20% of extra lift accessed ski runs being opened to the public.

The resorts also boast the longest season, from mid-June until mid-October and on occasion there has been Christmas (mid-summer) skiing!

On the South Island you are spoiled for choice. Most ski resorts in the South Island are situated high on the slopes of the Southern Alps, which slice through New Zealand. This environment is one where heli-skiers relish the deep powder and remote locations. Skiers and riders can choose to ski a glacier, ride the tubes at one of the ski resorts or schuss their way down the varied slopes.

Near Wanaka there is New Zealand's only Nordic ski area (Snow Farm) and an area only for freestyle skiing and riding (Snow Park). Coronet Peak and Snow Park NZ offers the only night skiing in New Zealand.

## QUEENSTOWN

Probably the best-known and most visited area is Queenstown, which is New Zealand's premier four-season lake and alpine resort. It has several ski areas, a crystal clear lake, lively après ski culture and all the activity of a cosmopolitan resort town that creates an enviable winter lifestyle in a spectacular environment.

Ski 'The Remarkables' three sunny bowls, marvel at the big mountain alpine vista and take on the finger chutes for lunchtime sundeck bragging. An expanded crèche and kids' centre, catering for little ones from 3 months to young adults at 17 years, makes this the logical family choice. Three terrain parks, including a beginner park and the only Burton Stash in the Southern Hemisphere ensures riders of all abilities can learn and progress in a safe and stimulating environment.

Think Coronet Peak and think wide ego skiing, think steeps and deeps and think back bowls for the truly serious. Coronet Peak is the local's choice, where the early

birds schuss before work and visitors wonder how they can leave the mountain's diverse terrain at all. It is the South Islands most popular ski resort and for good reason. In 2012 make sure to visit the new Icebar at the top of Greengates Express and kids, be sure to check out the extended Funzone for loads of features to play on.

Itching for more? Two words - heli ski. Choppers access Southern Alps terrain you've previously only met in your sleep. The ultimate adventure for advanced skiers and boarders, heli-skiing provides an opportunity to access some of the most pristine, untouched and challenging steeps available.

Ski New Zealand are constantly trying to make your skiing holiday easier and more enjoyable and with the introduction of 2 new ski busses and a choice of a 5 trip or 10 trip concession card, getting to the mountains couldn't be more convenient.

After dark Queenstown buzzes with nightlife in sophisticated wine bars, jovial pubs, cosmopolitan cocktail lounges, casinos and even an ice bar. Many venues have live music and entertainment and are in close proximity so you can hop with ease from bar to club. While you're in town, make sure you visit the buffet restaurant at the top of the Sky Gondola for an amazing feed and ever better views over Queenstown.

Winter establishments offer crackling log fires, plush leather couches and cosy, convivial atmospheres. The après ski scene is unparalleled anywhere in New Zealand.

## WANAKA

Over the Crown Range from Queenstown is Wanaka; a lakeside town that serves four-world class ski and snowboard resorts. Wanaka is situated in a dramatic glacier-carved basin on the shores of the lake. This township is the gateway to Mt Aspiring National Park, and four internationally rated ski areas; Cardrona Alpine Resort and Treble Cone Ski Area plus Snow Farm - New Zealand's only Nordic and cross country ski area, and Snow Park – the Southern Hemisphere's only dedicated terrain park resort.

With a base elevation of 1,670m above sea level, Cardrona is high, cold and renowned for its natural snow plus wide-open spaces. It is known as the friendly mountain and is excellent for kids.

Treble Cone offers the longest vertical rise in the Southern Lakes, un-crowded slopes, new wide intermediate groomed trails and legendary off piste powder skiing unrivalled in Australasia.

Snow Park NZ is a freestyle mecca for snowboarders and skiers tucked away in the beautiful Southern Alps of New

Zealand. Located on the Lee family high-country farm it has been in the family for over 87 years. Featuring two superpipes, a quarter pipe, big kickers, 40+ rails, hits, jumps and more, Snow Park has something for everyone including the Half Pint beginner park.

## METHVEN

Stand at the top of Mt Hutt ski area, the highest lift access in the Southern Alps, take several deep breaths of crisp clean mountain air, soak up stunning views across mountain peaks or out to the Pacific Ocean and feel the stress of daily life loosen its grip then fall away entirely. When you're ready, make your first turn and whoop your way into a winter holiday. Later, when exhausted, relax into the legendary hospitality of Methven, the warm village heart of winter in the Southern Alps.

At the foot of the Southern Alps in Canterbury, Mt Hutt is renowned for some of the best snow in Australasia. It offers spectacular views across the Canterbury Plains to the Pacific Ocean, creating an amazing sense of space, and regularly has one of the longest & most consistent seasons in the Southern Hemisphere.



Wanaka, NZ

Photograph : Alex Guzman



Photograph : Tsutomu Endo



New for 2012, Mt Hutt has introduced a program where kids 10 and under stay, eat and ski for free the entire winter season! There truly has never been a better reason for a family holiday overseas. In Methven, visitors who want up to date information about Mt Hutt and who want to purchase lift tickets, lessons or rentals will now be able to find us in the iSITE information centre. This building will now be “the Hub” and a one stop shop for visitors wanting to know anything about Mt Hutt and Methven. As an added benefit there is an onsite café to help you defrost and bus transport up to Mt Hutt will also leave from here.

From the Mt Hutt carpark, Mt Hutt helicopters can get you to the superb North Peak within minutes. The peak run offers 800 vertical metres of downhill slopes and is an ideal introduction to heliskiing or boarding. Methven Heliski, Mt Hutt Helicopters and Mt Potts Backcountry all offer heli-skiing and at Mt Potts you’ll also find New Zealand’s only helicopter accessed ‘Heli-Park’ skiing experience. Opening in early June and extending right through until late October, the Mt Hutt ski area has some of the best spring skiing on offer.

## ANTICIPATED 2012 SEASON DATES

Ski Area	Open	Close
Mt Hutt (Methven)	9 <sup>th</sup> Jun	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Coronet Peak (Queenstown)	9 <sup>th</sup> Jun	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Treble Cone (Wanaka)	28 <sup>th</sup> Jun	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Cardrona (Wanaka)	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
The Remarkables (Queenstown)	16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Whakapapa (Mt Ruapehu)	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	TBC
Turoa (Mt Ruapehu)	16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	TBC
Snow Park (Wanaka)	16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	TBC
Snow Farm (Wanaka)	20 <sup>th</sup> Jun	TBC

Please note, these dates above were correct at time of printing and are only a guideline. Dates are subject to change due to weather conditions.



Photograph : Miles Holden



Now remember if all that skiing is too much then Winter holiday makers that visit New Zealand have the ability to use their inter-changeable ski pass for a range of other activities including tandem skydiving, jet boating, massage & spa, paragliding, cruises, casinos and cultural experiences.

The ability to intersperse a ski holiday with so many other New Zealand adventures and activities allows traveling parties, whether they be families or friends, the chance to try a range of experiences all in one holiday!

## GETTING THERE

Air New Zealand flies their recently refurbished 767 and A320 aircraft to New Zealand up to 140 times a week from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Gold Coast and Cairns, connecting with 27 domestic destinations across New Zealand's North and South Islands.

There are direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Queenstown and numerous direct flights into Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland airports. Be sure to check websites for online deals and sometimes flights are even included in New Zealand Ski Holiday packages.

## TEN COOL THINGS TO DO ON YOUR NZ SKI HOLIDAY

1. Have your photo taken from the top of The Remarkables with Lake Wakatipu in the background and the resort of Queenstown beneath.
2. Ski in the morning and have a round of golf in the afternoon.
3. Take a few friends heliskiing in knee-deep powder on one of the hundreds of slopes behind Queenstown in Wanaka.
4. Ski the volcanic slopes on Mt Ruapehu and view yet another volcano - Mt Taranaki in the distance.
5. Enjoy an après ski Gluwhein in front of the outdoor open fire at Barluga, Post Office Lane.
6. Satisfy your adrenalin 'fix' with jet boating and bungee jumping in Queenstown.
7. Going night skiing is an absolute 'must do' while in Queenstown.
8. Do a face plant in fresh powder snow with all your friends watching!
9. Slide down groomed tracks on specifically designed inner-tubes in The Ozone Tubing Park.

10. Spend a night on the mountain at Snow Park's luxury apartment catching a beautiful sunset over the Pisa Range from your private hot tub.

And just one more because we always like to give you more:

Get up at the crack of dawn and experience First Tracks. Riding the Cornet Express lift from 8am before the lifts officially open at 9am. Whether it's fresh powder or groomed corduroy, that first hour on untracked snow with the sun rising out over the mountain is second to none. Only you and a few like-minded enthusiasts getting in the best runs of the day!

It is not too late to book now for your New Zealand skiing experience and make the most of deeper, closer snow and a fantastic après ski atmosphere. For more information on a skiing holiday in New Zealand visit the following tourism websites:

[www.lakewanaka.co.nz](http://www.lakewanaka.co.nz)  
[www.nzski.com](http://www.nzski.com)  
[www.mtruapehu.com](http://www.mtruapehu.com)

Thank you NZ Ski, Lake Wanaka and Mt Ruapehu tourism bodies for the information and photographs in this article.



Destination

# CANBERRA

*Uncover the story of our nation through Canberra's famed national attractions*

*By Chloe Fraser*

***Discover the home of the Australian story in Canberra, where our national attractions and hidden gems deliver many unexpected delights.***

Located a 3.5 hour drive from Sydney, Canberra isn't simply a political destination, it's a holiday city with something for both the young and the old.

When the children are happy, the whole family is happy and Canberra has more than enough to keep them entertained. The beauty about most of the attractions in Canberra is they appeal to not only children, but the young and curious at heart. Here are a few favourites:

***National Zoo & Aquarium*** : Get set for fun family adventure on the Family Tour at Australia's only combined zoo and aquarium. Young and old can feel the breath of a giraffe on your face, look a big cat in the eye, hold or touch a snake and enjoy the antics of the otters and monkeys. This tour takes the family behind the scenes to meet and feed some of the zoo's favourite animals. Bigger kids can hand feed lions, tigers and bears on the Zooventure tour and play ball with a cheetah on the Meet-a-Cheetah tour.

***Cockington Green Gardens*** : Ride the mini steam train around this delightful miniature villages and tower over tiny versions of famous buildings from around the world. Watch

the kids bring the exhibits to life with interactive mechanical animation and enjoy a barbecue or a picnic lunch.

***Questacon*** : Freefall six meters down a vertical slide and be shaken by an earthquake. Visit Perception Deception and discover reality isn't what it seems. Change size before your eyes, watch the science theater shows, play hide and seek in the spaceship and be amused by water games at Mini Q.

***Australian Institute of Sport*** : Take a guided tour by an elite athlete and discover where Australia's sporting champions live and train. Then step into a world of fun and excitement at Sportex, the interactive sports experience. Kick a goal in a Rugby Union or AFL simulated environment, challenge a friend to a simulated mountain bike race, try your hand at wheelchair basketball, throw the stumps down in cricket and fly head down a bobsled track.

***CSIRO Discovery*** : Don a lab coat to conduct real experiments, win a lolly by making enough energy to power a mechanical arm, make faces for the facial recognition software and feel strange sensations in the 3D cinema.

***Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex*** : Check out real moon rocks, see the kinds of food astronauts eat in space and experience one of three centers in the world that communicate with current missions.

***Canberra Walk-in Aviary*** : Hand feed fresh fruit to more than 50 varieties of bird at this large walk-in aviary.



See many bird varieties from colourful finches and cockatiels, to parrots and lorikeets.

Being the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra houses many national treasures. They all tell a story of our nation's history and many actively play a role in today's society. Don't forget to tour around all the embassies and sometimes you can even book in a tour. Some of the must-visits include:

**National Portrait Gallery of Australia :** See some 400 portraits of the people who have shaped and continue to shape our nation, ranging from musicians to politicians, in the form of paintings, drawings, sculptures and photography.

**Museum of Australian Democracy at Old**

**Parliament House :** Discover where Australia has come from and be inspired by the amazing real life stories of ordinary people who have fought to shape the society we live in today.

**Royal Australian Mint :** Visit the newly refurbished mint for a close-up view of how Australia's coins are made. Peer through the observation windows to the factory floor where the coins are being prepared and visit the Coin Shop to make your own coin on the visitors press.

**National Museum of Australia :** Marvel at thousands of objects that represent Australia's history and cultural heritage. See Phar Lap's heart, Captain Cook's magnifier and follow the journey of our Indigenous people.

**Australian War Memorial :** Pay tribute to and commemorate the commitment, camaraderie and sacrifice of Australians at war. See some of the world's most significant relics and relive a 1943 night raid over Berlin. Perhaps the most humbling moment of my life was experienced at the Hall of Memory with its Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier. The best time to visit is at 5pm when the moving rendition of the Last Post is played.

**Parliament House :** Marvel at the 81 meter flagpole and the panoramic views from one of the most architecturally acclaimed buildings. Stroll through the beautifully landscaped gardens and even watch the parliamentarians in action at Question Time.

**National Library of Australia :** Housing the personal papers of past Prime Ministers and Australians, you can experience rare books, photographs, manuscripts, sheet music and oral histories that contributed to the vitality of Australia's culture and heritage.

***Australian's have a love for the great outdoors and Canberra provides many activities and attractions to experience whilst soaking up some sun.***

This modern city offers a busy calendar of events and festivals — like Floriade, Australia's celebration of spring held at Commonwealth Park, where glorious spring blooms erupt in tune with bright blue skies. If it's the great outdoors that you're after then check out the purpose-built cycling facilities at Stromlo Forest Park or Canberra's fantastic cycle path network. Discover nature and wildlife at Tidbinbilla or Namadgi National Park right on our doorstep. Be greeted by one of the many local

winemakers and sample the fruits of their labour at the cellar door. Don't forget to visit:

**National Gallery of Australian Sculpture Garden :**

Spread across the grounds between the Gallery and the lake shore is a display of 26 remarkable modern sculptures by international and Australian artists set among native landscaping representing the seasons.

**RG Menzies Walk :** Named after Australia's longest serving Prime Minister, the pedestrian walkway runs along the tranquil shores of Lake Burley Griffin where you can see some of Canberra's most scenic attractions.

**Australian National Botanic Gardens :** Explore the gardens with a guide and enjoy a coffee. Listen to the sounds of the native birds, watch the water dragons sunbake and relax to the sounds of live music.

**Old Parliament House Gardens and the National Rose Gardens :** The historic rose gardens around Old Parliament House are a must see for garden lovers. Among the stunning displays are rose bushes and the gardens offer seating pavilions, pergolas, tennis courts, bowling green and cricket pitch.

**Lake Burley Griffin :** A busy hub of activity, get active with rowing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and paddle boating. Explore Canberra's famous sites from the water on a cruise and cool off with the spray from the Captain Cook Memorial Jet shooting 140m into the air.

For some of the best views in Canberra be sure to visit:

**Black Mountain Tower :** Standing at 195m, the Black Mountain Tower offer 360 degree views of Canberra, a revolving restaurant and can be accessed by a walking track displaying native flora and fauna.

**Red Hill :** In autumn, the brilliant reds and oranges of the trees below provide a stunning view from 175 meters above the city. For bird lovers, the eucalypt hollows are the favourite nesting place of the white-throated treecreepers and southern boobooks.

**Mount Pleasant :** Visit the grave of General Bridges, Australia's highest ranking soldier in World War I, who is the only Australian soldier killed at Gallipoli to be buried in Australia. Mount Pleasant offers beautiful views over Lake Burley Griffin and Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

Canberra is clearly a place of great diversity. With accommodation ranging from caravan parks to resorts and dining options ranging from kiosks to restaurants with locally sourced wines, there truly is an experience to be created for everyone. Canberra is sure to provide a memorable experience for all who visit, with a range of activities to suit everyone, from fun loving kids to those interested in politics and history.

**For more information visit [www.visitcanberra.com.au/](http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/)**

Thank you to Visit Canberra for the information and photographs featured in this article.

# ORANGE REGION

*There's something magical about the central tableland area, no matter what season you visit.*





*By Vicki Fraser*

## *Vibrant vivid colours of the surrounding countryside paint a picture artists would envy.*

One of the major cities in this part of the world is Orange. Depending on the season, the temperature can range from moderately warm to a little brisk on winter mornings. In all, it is a beautiful country getaway for a weekend or for the lucky ones even longer.

Orange dates back to about the late 1820s, with an official proclamation of township in 1846. Originally known as Blackman's Swamp, Orange is now a very diverse city with a wonderful blend of the olde world and the cosmopolitan. It is the largest city in the central western district with a population of 38,000 and overall with the nearby towns and villages, supports a surrounding population of 100,000.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE:

### ***Historical Orange***

For those interested in how things were in the 'olden days' Orange is a great place to stroll around and soak up some history by wandering along the 'Heritage Trail'. Some of the highlights include beautiful old buildings: Holy Trinity Church of Orange (1879), Duntryleague Guest House (1876), the Orange Court House, and the Orange Town Hall.

There is also the row of ironwork-decorated houses built in 1876, known as Bowen Terrace. It's worthwhile checking out the Cobb & Co Heritage Trail.

Did you know that Orange is the birthplace of Australia's famous poet Banjo Paterson? At the site of his birthplace, on the Ophir Road, you will find Banjo Paterson Park and a memorial obelisk which declares that this was the location where Andrew 'Banjo' Paterson, was born.

There is plenty more to soak up historically in Orange. Brochures are available from the local Historical Society and Visitor Information Centre which lists 44 places of interest.

### ***Gardens***

If gardening is your thing or even just finding a place to sit and contemplate the world then you won't be disappointed with the parks in Orange. One of its major parks – Cook Park also has a heritage walk. While you are there check out the trees, many were planted in 1880.

There is also Moulder Park - spectacular in autumn, and the Orange Botanical Gardens - on 17 hectares and featuring 'Homestead Gardens',



‘Sensory Gardens’, ‘Biblical Gardens’ and ‘Heritage Rose Garden’. Also, Robertson Park - planted with exotic and native trees is located on the original site of ‘Blackmans Swamp’, existing since 1882.

### **Wineries**

A day of wine tasting is a pleasant way to spend some time whilst visiting Orange. Given that there are about 30 wineries in this area, everyone is sure to find something to their liking. The cool climate grapes and the rich volcanic soil combine to produce some superb reds. Mind you I am no wine connoisseur, but like most of us I know what I like and it is always good to increase the cellar stock!

You’ll find cool climate wines produced from Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz grapes, Liqueurs from apples and cherries and Verjus (a non-alcoholic cooking product). Orange is best known for its Cabernet, Shiraz, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, but also produces Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Viognier and Riesling.

If you are traveling that way around 19th to 28th October you could check out the Orange Wine Week. Activities include

the Orange Wine Show; Winery Tours, Wine-tastings and many more activities. You can even make your own wine!

### **Orange Food Week**

The Food of Orange District (F.O.O.D Week) is an annual event held over 10 days - usually in April. The Orange and Cabonne areas are known as ‘The Food Basket’ of NSW and each year F.O.O.D. Week supports local produce and ‘fine food’. It showcases the producers, their products, the local chefs and restaurants, and other enterprises that provide the region with its great reputation for fine food and wine.

There’s lots of extra entertainment organised during this time including the Colour City Cup Race. Lots of food, wine and the races – what more could you want!

### **Australian National Field Days 16th – 18th October**

To really get a feel for what this region has to offer in the agriculture arena, a great day out can be had at the Australian National Field Days. Held at Borenore (15kms west of Orange) this is widely

acknowledged as Australia’s oldest and premier Agricultural Exhibition. It showcases the latest ideas, products and services for the agriculture industries.

### **Orange Frost Fest**

Held in August each year this event celebrates winter with an emphasis on music and art.

Throw in some great food and wines which will also be showcased at this time and you have a good reason to visit Orange during Winter.

### **Gnoo Blas Classic Car Show**

Now here is one for the Classic Car and racing history enthusiast. Held in February each year, The Gnoo Blas Classic is a classic car show staged at Jack Brabham Park in the centre of the old Gnoo Blas Road Racing Circuit. It’s a nostalgic weekend of great cars held on the Gnoo Blas Circuit, which was a motor racing circuit formed from rural roads and highways outside of the town of Orange, around the grounds of Bloomfield Hospital and what is now known as Sir Jack Brabham



Park. This circuit was opened in 1953 and held the inaugural Australian Touring Car Championship event in 1960. In its time it was established as the fastest circuit in Australia, with a lap record of 105mph (169kmh), 15% faster than Mount Panorama - Reg Hunt set this speed in a Maserati in 1956.

### ***Borenore Caves Reserve***

Located on the Orange-Forbes road, some 17km from Orange, Borenore Caves Reserve is an ideal place to 'commune with mother nature'. Wander over the reserve and explore the many wonders of the Tunnel Cave & Arch Cave. Probably this one is for the more adventurous. You need to come properly prepared with sturdy shoes and a torch (most of Tunnel Cave is dark). There are established walking tracks and picnic areas.

### ***Orange Antique Fair***

If you are visiting in June you may be interested in the Orange Antique Fair organized by The Zonta Club of Orange. As a side this event also helps to raise funds to assist the welfare of women and children. Twenty-nine dealers from NSW, ACT, VIC, SA and TAS present a diverse and interesting array of antiques, old wares and collectables. Furniture, jewellery, linen, carpets, furs, silverware, porcelain, glassware...there's something for everyone.

### ***Mount Canobolas and Lake Canobolas***

Mount Canobolas is a magnificent extinct volcano 1,395m above sea level. If you take one of the walks you can see a wide range of fauna - rosellas, cockatoos, parrots, lorikeets, grey

kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, koalas and small possums. While you're in the area, check out Federal Falls. If you visit in winter the peak of Mt Canobolas is often covered in snow.

Lake Canobolas is a well established artificial lake that provides good picnic and barbecue facilities as well as a wide range of leisure activities including sail-boating, swimming and fishing. There is a walking track around the lake and a fully restored old pumphouse.

### ***Experience Village Life for a Day***

A trip to any country area would not be complete without making a side trip to some of the beautiful outlying villages. Below are some of my favourites:

Lucknow is a great journey back in time. It's a gold mining settlement dating back to the 1850s.

Take the walking tour which lasts for about an hour to see the best of this town. Just a few kilometers from Orange you can check out some of the miners' cottages and the remains of the Wentworth Gold Mine workings (1890s - 1940s).

Millthorpe is a picturesque historic village classified by the National Trust and only 10 minutes from Orange with many 19th century buildings to explore.



Spring Hill is also just 10 minutes from Orange. Spend an hour exploring the history of the village by taking the Heritage Trail walk.

## PLACES TO STAY

Orange offers a range of accommodation options from the budget conscious to the “let’s have an all out splurge”. You can choose from B & B’s, holiday & luxury apartments & cottages in self contained and serviced accommodation. There are also guest houses, motels, motor inns, hotels, eco and farm stays, family and group accommodation, camping, caravan & tourist parks. There are even fully self contained railway carriages and backpacker accommodation is available at some of Orange’s cheaper pubs.

## GETTING THERE

Orange is situated on the western side of the Great Dividing Range, 261km west of Sydney, about a 3-3.5 hour drive. It’s also about the same travel time from Canberra.

You can also get there by Countrylink and Australia Wide Coaches. Regional Express (REX) flies to Orange from Sydney several times a day.

Countrylink: Tel: 132 232  
www.countrylink.nsw.gov.au

Australia Wide Coaches: Tel: 02 6362 7963 [www.austwidecoaches.com.au](http://www.austwidecoaches.com.au)  
Regional Express (REX): Tel: 13 17 13  
[www.regionalexpress.com.au](http://www.regionalexpress.com.au)

## CANOWINDRA

Ever wanted to go back to somewhere that was quite special to you in your childhood?

Well Canowindra is that place for me. Spending three years there as a child imbedded me with some very special qualities that you get from country living. Some 40 years on and there is a part of me that is still drawn to this beautiful area. Mind you, Canowindra has certainly had a facelift since then, however it has retained its olde world charm and country friendliness, all of which combine to produce a great package for a weekend away.

Canowindra is nestled in some of the most picturesque scenery you will find in NSW no matter what the season or rain situation. The Lachlan-Belubula river meanders through rolling hills of patchwork colour which is ever-changing with the seasons.

Canowindra sports a colourful past which dates back to the late 1830s. Being in NSW Bushranger country, it was once known as the town held captive by Frank

Gardiner’s gang of bushrangers which included Ben Hall. The gang occupied the town for three days in 1863.

A walk down the beautiful crooked heritage listed main street (a legacy of the old bullock team road) takes us back into olde world charm. Many of the buildings are listed on the National Trust. A visit to the museum and the antique shops gives an idea of how people lived in the 1800s. Spending a few days in this very friendly charming town is sure to rejuvenate and invigorate even the most jaded.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE

### *Ballooning*

I remember my first balloon ride. We were staying on a family friends’ farm just outside of Canowindra and had to be in town before sunrise. Traveling at that time of morning in the beautiful countryside brought a sense of peace and serenity to me. I must admit I was a little concerned about going for a balloon ride – I’m not great with heights or things that move - but I wasn’t going to miss this for anything. To this day I remember the sense of wonderment and awe as we glided over some of the prettiest views I’ve seen.





So still, quiet and centering. Nothing can compete with the magic and peace you will experience.

You sure figure out where you fit into the scheme of things up there.

Canowindra is one of the best places to take a balloon ride because of its still cool mornings and warm days. Also, if you are visiting around April check out the Canowindra Balloon Challenge.

### **Canowindra Historical Museum**

Step back in time and trace the history of this area from the 1840s. An authentic slab hut, woolshed and tiny weatherboard shop have been relocated and house thematic displays.

The main building displays household items, a dental surgery, textiles and wedding gowns of local brides from 1886 onwards. It's open on Sundays 10am-12pm or by appointment.

For more information check out [www.centralnswmuseums.com.au](http://www.centralnswmuseums.com.au)

### **Ages of Fishes Museum**

In 1955 Canowindra became world news after a chance discovery by a roadworker of a 360 million year old fossil find - a time before humans, before dinosaurs. The Age of Fishes Museum displays

fossils of these ancient fishes preserved in stone for all of us to see - one of the world's great fossil discoveries - "The Great Canowindra Devonian Fish Fossils". The Canowindra site has now been listed as part of Australia's National Heritage because of its international scientific importance.

Check out more [www.ageoffishes.org.au](http://www.ageoffishes.org.au)

### **Wine tasting**

What better way to spend a relaxing afternoon than to go on a bit of a wine tasting trip.

With some 10 or so wineries within just a cooee of Canowindra, the only problem is which one do you choose? From Chardonnay, Sparkling Brut, Semillon, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and of course Merlot wines, to name just a few, there will be something for everyone.

### **100 Mile Dinner**

If you're visiting around 13th to 22nd April then the 100-Mile Dinner held in Canowindra's crooked main street is a must. It celebrates local produce and wines, but book early!

Check out [www.orangefoodweek.com.au](http://www.orangefoodweek.com.au)

### **Canowindra Agricultural Show**

If you're visiting around September 26th and 27th then take a look at the show. It's a great way to meet the locals and to gain an understanding of the diversity of this rural community.

## WHERE TO STAY

There are lots of accommodation styles to choose from. Depending on the experience you want to have visitors can choose from luxury retreats, farm stays, cottage style accommodation, caravan park, motels, a heritage listed inn and so on.

## GETTING THERE

Situated approximately 4 hours west of Sydney between Orange and Cowra and about 2.5 hours from Canberra. Canowindra has a population of around 2,100 and is accessible only by car, but trust me it's worth it! A trip to this area will bring memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you to Orange Food Week, Canowindra and Taste Canowindra for the tourism pictures used in this article.

**Check out these links for further ideas**  
[www.orange-nsw.com](http://www.orange-nsw.com) AND [www.canowindra.org.au](http://www.canowindra.org.au)

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# The TOWN OF 1770 & AGNES WATER

*If, like me you want it all, plus the freedom to be indecisive and spontaneous, then I know just the spot!*

*By Leonie Orton*

The Town of 1770 & Agnes Water is set on a beautiful stretch of Queensland's Discovery Coast, below the Whitsundays and north of Fraser Island.

The area is rich in natural beauty with pristine surf beaches, estuaries to explore, and is surrounded by national and marine parks. It is also the closest point to access the southern Great Barrier Reef.

The historic part of town was discovered in, you guessed it 1770, by James Cook and the Crew of HM Bark Endeavour. The village itself hugs the shores of the bay and has a number of accommodation options ranging from luxurious villas overlooking the ocean to a caravan park popular with families. There are also restaurants from which to sip something cold and watch the sunset.

Agnes Water is eight kilometers to the south and has more accommodation options plus all the trappings of civilization you could require.

We nonchalantly breezed into town on the 30th December, looking for a New Years Eve destination. It was a spur of the moment decision, so the day before, we'd called a few places but everything was booked out. There are some beautiful beach houses lining the coast if you can plan ahead, or keep last minute plans to shoulder or off-peak times.

There is also a stunning stretch of rainforest called Deepwater National Park to the south, which has campsites and amenities. This too was fully booked over the NYE period due to it's popularity.

We were feeling spontaneous and defiant so we threw our camp

gear and togs into the back of the 4x4 and went anyway.

Upon arrival, we headed straight to the tourist information centre to find somewhere to spend our New Years Eve.

The lady who helped us was a total pro. She had her spiel down pat. In five minutes we knew the history of 1770, the layout of town, available activities and all the accommodation options from five-star to backpackers.

Thanks to her we found a great tea tree hemmed campground only two minutes from town, and best of all, a beautiful, almost secluded beach was a short stroll down a forested path from our camp.

This is where we spent the last night of the year. Sitting akimbo on picnic rugs, dining on barbecued salmon and sipping champagne from our very best plastic camp cups.

Whether you are a backpacker, a camper, or a five-star traveller, the town of 1770 and Agnes Water has something for you. If, like us you want a spontaneous holiday, you will find adventure. If, however you can plan ahead, you have an amazing array of stunning beach houses at your disposal!

For information on how to get there, where to stay and what to do, head to the 1770 & Agnes Water Tourist Information site: <http://townof1770-agneswater.com.au> or email them at: [info@townof1770-agneswater.com.au](mailto:info@townof1770-agneswater.com.au)

We would like to thank Tourism Queensland for the photos used in this article.



# EXPERIENCE

*Every state or territory has a unique and exciting experience to offer. If you're in town make sure you check out these.*

By *Chloe Fraser*

## WA

### ***Didgeridoo Breath***

The didgeridoo is a unique and traditional instrument of our countries elders. It is not only a musical instrument, but it's artwork and sounds tell a story. The art of playing a didgeridoo is one that is not easy to learn, but is truly worthwhile. So, if you're in the town of Fremantle, Western Australia, drop on by Didgeridoo Breath to get a lesson.

Didgeridoo Breath provides lessons from beginners to the experienced ranging from one hour lessons to four week courses that are world renowned. If you're looking for something different to do on your next work conference or event, they also offer lessons for conferences, functions, events and a variety of workshops.

For those who are looking to delve deeper, the Didgeridoo Breath team can provide you the history and culture of this interesting instrument and teach you the fundamental techniques to succeed including circular breathing, rhythm, song construction and traditional playing styles.

If coming into a lesson is not your cup of tea, they also sell CD's and DVD's that can teach you from the comfort of your own home and have starter packs to buy your very own didgeridoo!

***For more information please contact: (08) 9430 6009***  
***[www.didgeridoobreath.com.au](http://www.didgeridoobreath.com.au)***



## VIC

### ***Bayplay Adventure Tours & Self Contained Cottages*** ***Buddy Up Underwater Tours and Aquatic Adventures***

Anyone looking for hassle-free adventure on the Mornington Peninsula should make a beeline for Bayplay Adventure Tours. This one-stop shop provides an extraordinary range of experiences, from a few hours snorkelling among Port Phillip Bay's fascinating marine life, to fully accommodated multi-day packages, taking in everything this popular playground south of Melbourne has to offer.

Buddy up on a sea-kayak tours to the Dolphin Sanctuary and Point Nepean, often accompanied by curious local dolphins – they may even dive over the front of your kayak!

Get wet with confidence on snorkel tours visiting an amazing sea-dragon colony. Get even more up-close-and-personal with the marine life by learning to dive in just one day, while experienced divers can try guided dives such as those around the region's 'Famous Four piers. Bayplay also offers PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) accredited dive courses.

As well as its extensive kayak, snorkel and dive offerings, Bayplay also provides a hire service for a range of kayaks, stand up paddle boards and bicycles. So you can explore at your own pace. This one-stop shop truly has adventure tourism covered.

### ***Cottages and Group Accommodation***

Private group accommodation is available in Portsea, Blarigowrie or Rye or choose a self contained cottage for a private escape. Bayplay accommodation is priced medium range – leaving you plenty of spending money for your activities, wining and dining.

***Ph: 03 5984 0888 Web: [www.bayplay.com.au](http://www.bayplay.com.au)***

# THIS

## SA

### ***The Adelaide Soaring Club***

The Adelaide Soaring Club has been an integral part of aviation in South Australia since 1944.

Over those 68 years there are many things that have changed, but the club's commitment to safety, learning, fun and fellowship hasn't.

The Adelaide Soaring Club is located at Gawler just 42kms north of the City of Adelaide. It is reached by road or rail in less than an hour. For visitors, Gawler is also at the doorstep of the Barossa Valley, South Australia's world famous wine making region. The club has comfortable clubhouse facilities including a self-help kitchen, licensed bar, bunkhouse accommodation and showers / toilets. Visitors to Gawler may find motel accommodation just a few kilometers from the field. There are also two caravan parks in the area. Glider launching is by aero tow and they operate everyday except Tuesday's and Christmas Day.

Boasting a fleet of single and double seat gliders as well as Light Sport Aircraft, the club has a membership around 250. Members travel to the 1500 meter long runway from all over the metro area and beyond, with a large emphasis being placed on youth. The club shares facilities with RAAF cadets, The Air League and has strong scholarship program for youth living in the region.

The Gawler airfield houses a large number of privately owned aircraft with many unique and interesting types to be seen around the club. Joy flights are offered in both Gliding and LSA and training is a strong part of the club's program.

***Anyone interested in finding out more about the Adelaide Soaring Club is encouraged to visit the website [www.adelaidesoaring.on.net](http://www.adelaidesoaring.on.net)***



## TAS

### ***Welcome to the Ghost Tours of Hobart & Battery Point!***

Allow yourself to be professionally guided in the ghostly footsteps of convict and bushrangers, whalers and sailors, barmaids and prostitutes, cannibals and criminals. Walk amongst the dead from

Hobart's legendary past. Walking in the footsteps of outrageous characters, exploring their haunts, feeling their presence. Some of our Ghosts love to perform for the camera too!

They offer two tours, Hobart & Battery Point. On the Hobart tour you will be guided through the dramatic, deliciously haunted and most historic old CBD, visiting various haunts and places where legends were born. The visited Ghosts are from early Hobart right through to current day. This route is very flat so is wheelchair accessible.

On the Battery Point tour wander the streets of this delightful, historic waterfront suburb taking in true tales both colourful and raw from early life through to current day. This route is not suitable for wheelchairs or folks with walking difficulties.

The tours meet and conclude at 'Bakehouse', 24hr bakery in Salamanca Square. All guests receive a discount vouchers for the Bakehouse at check-in. The Bakehouse has full amenities and there is a cab rank situated nearby in Salamanca Place.

Hobart has more than its share of ghosts, come see for yourself!

***Bookings essential.***

***Email: [ghosttourshobart@internode.on.net](mailto:ghosttourshobart@internode.on.net)***

***Ph: 0439 335 696 [www.ghosttoursofhobart.com.au](http://www.ghosttoursofhobart.com.au)***

## NT

With the tagline 'Let the Adventure Begin!' Fish Darwin offers a choice of adventure experiences based around the iconic 'Territory' pastime which is of course fishing! You will be thrilled to fight 'the big one' on a 1/2 Day Fishing Tour in Darwin Harbour as you enjoy a barbeque of prawn skewers



and crocodile burgers. You have the chance to hook a delicious golden snapper, a prize black jewfish or a hard fighting Spanish mackerel fishing the change of tide for the best fishing each day.



The more experienced angler can embark on an unforgettable journey on a 2 - 6 Night Live-a-Board Fishing Adventure to reefs, shoals and islands across the Top End departing from Darwin. These Live-a-Board Charters hook an average of 150 fish per day and up to 50 different species per trip! There's something for everyone as your friendly and experienced fishing guides mix it up with reef, pelagic and sport fishing. Just a few of the prize species caught are black jewfish, golden snapper, Spanish mackerel, red emperor, coral trout, giant trevally, tuna, red bass, long nosed emperor and sailfish.

Whatever type of tour you choose, you will enjoy exemplary customer service, delicious meals, large safe boats and a fun, memorable experience in the NT with this locally owned and operated company.

**Contact Fish Darwin at [fish@fishdarwin.com.au](mailto:fish@fishdarwin.com.au) or (08) 8985 5898 [www.fishdarwin.com.au](http://www.fishdarwin.com.au)**

## NSW

### **Explore Sydney in Classic Style**

Not everyone has had the chance to experience the unforgettable thrill of cruising Sydney Harbour aboard a one-of-a-kind 1850's style Tall Ship. Step aboard and discover her amazing history, as you sail past Sydney's icons such as the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Help hoist the sails, take a turn at the wheel and discover what is involved in sailing these mighty ships or simply relax and enjoy the cruise.



Start the day in style with a Champagne BBQ brunch cruise or enjoy a BBQ lunch or twilight dinner cruise. On selected Fridays you can experience a truly unique wine tasting and canapé dinner. This is a true sailing experience, set to the incredible backdrop of Sydney Harbour unfolding around you.

Thrill seekers can take the Mast Climb challenge, an Australian First. Climb to the pinnacle of a 15 meter high mast for the most spectacular and unique, birds-eye view of Sydney.

Call and quote SEQA to receive a 20% discount on a weekday lunch or dinner cruise with a free Mast Climb valued at \$79.

***Sydney Harbour Tall Ships Departs daily from Campbell's Cove, The Rocks. Contact 1800 825 574 or +61 2 8243 7961 [www.sydneytallships.com.au](http://www.sydneytallships.com.au)***

## ACT

The National Zoo & Aquariums Zooventure tour is one of the most hands-on zoo experiences available in Australia. If you're an animal lover looking for the thrill of a lifetime, then a Zooventure Tour is just the thing. The 2 hour behind the scenes guided tour offers participants the opportunity to feed a variety of amazing animals!

of the tour include feeding the resident white lions, coming nose to nose with a giraffe, having the enormous brown bears lick honey from your fingers and so much more.

The National Zoo & Aquarium also offers one of the most amazing animal experiences in Australia – Meet a Cheetah.

During your experience you are able to have hands-on contact, pat and play with one of these amazing cats! At all times an experienced Zookeeper is with you to answer your questions and guide you as you interact with this incredible animal.



For the ultimate in animal experiences, try a Walk on the Wildside Tour! This encompasses all the animal experiences on offer in the other tours into one full-on day of animal interaction! Participants spend the day with a Zookeeper, visiting dens and enclosures, making animal enrichment toys and preparing food. Tours run daily, bookings essential!

**[www.nationalzoo.com.au](http://www.nationalzoo.com.au)**

## QLD

### **1770 LARC Tours!**

The Town of 1770 on the Central Queensland coast is known as the Birthplace of Queensland, as Captain James Cook made his 2nd Australian landfall here in the year 1770. The Town of 1770 encompasses the friendly community overlooking the blue waters and sandbanks of Bustard Bay.

For a trip you will never forget, board the pink LARC, an amphibious craft that will take you for a ride across deserted sandy beaches and pristine estuaries as you make your way to the isolated Bustard Head Lighthouse located within Eurimbula National Park. You'll hear the tales of tragedy and triumph as early white settlers and lighthouse keepers struggled to tame this remote wilderness. You will see some of the prolific wildlife that inhabits the area and you will gasp in awe at the spectacular panoramic view from the historic Bustard Head Lighthouse - Queensland's first coastal light.

The tourism award winning LARC! has been operating for 17 years by the Mergard family and departs the Town of 1770 all year round for the full day Paradise Tour experience to Bustard Head Lighthouse, as well as one hour Afternoon Cruises around Bustard Bay.



***1770 LARC! Tours. Bookings: (07) 4974 9422***

***E:[info@1770larctours.com.au](mailto:info@1770larctours.com.au) [www.1770larctours.com.au](http://www.1770larctours.com.au)***

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# PORSCHE CAYENNE

*When Porsche first made the Cayenne the purists howled.. it couldn't be a 'Porsche' they said. Porsche don't make SUV's.*



# EEES



*By Rob Fraser*

When Porsche first made the Cayenne the purists howled.. it couldn't be a 'Porsche' they said. Porsche don't make SUV's. Well not so long ago we were lucky enough to drive the Porsche Cayenne S and let me tell you - it is a Porsche. Porsche's Cayenne S could be described as close to the pinnacle of prestige 4WD SUV driving with the sporting characteristics of Porsche combined with 4WD ability far beyond what the overwhelmingly majority of owners will ever explore.

The Cayenne has been around for a few years now and is credited with bringing Porsche back from financial oblivion. Having driven the latest version Cayenne S format I can see why, it's simply brilliant.

When you first approach the new Cayenne, it displays an elegance rarely seen in this type of vehicle. All at once it has the design features of dynamic sporting lines with a sweeping, coupé-like character. Personally I love the sophisticated sleek look, that is unmistakably Porsche

The key to the new design is that while maintaining that sleek exterior the designers have managed to provide more interior space. To achieve this the new Cayenne has a slightly longer wheelbase (40mm) and is slightly wider and higher than the model it replaces. However while these measurements are small the effect inside is noticeable. Externally It retains a more compact look than dimensions indicate.

The new design of the car emphasises the long and stretched engine compartment lid as well as the flat rear roof pillar with its dynamic sweep towards the rear of the car. The exterior mirrors on the new Cayenne come in brand-new design flatter than before ensuring wind noise is reduced by improved aerodynamics and visibility in tight bends is enhanced by an additional window in the former mirror triangle. The clearly contoured wings and doors, in turn, give even greater emphasis to the wheel arches.

The Cayenne S now comes with LED daytime driving lights integrated as one unit in the sidelights positioned on the upper edge of the outer air intakes. The rear light clusters are completely new in their design and feature LED technology as well.

Internally the new Cayenne S stands out right from the start. It is luxurious, spacious and with superb ergonomics the driver and passengers are offered something quite special.

The front seats have electrical eight-way adjustment with a wide range of adjustment options for seat height and angle, backrest angle and the fore-and-aft position of the seats. The seats are extremely comfortable, offering not only good side support, but also, through their wide range of adjustment, excellent body fit. These are the type of seats you can drive all day in and arrive feeling refreshed and without backache. There is the option of Adaptive Sports Seats with a Comfort Memory Package adjusting to 18 different positions for optimum side support under all conditions.



In front of the driver is a thick rimmed multi function leather steering wheel that is both height and reach adjustable. Behind that is the 5 dial dash layout that is designed for driving with the tachometer front and centre. The beauty of this layout is that everything you need is clearly visible and easy to read.

The centre console certainly catches the eye with a multitude of switches and buttons. It feels like a plane cockpit and you sometimes feel that you need a pilot's license to operate all these controls. However they are very intuitive to use and don't take long to familiarise yourself with. The multitude of switches though means that there is limited storage area for the little things we all seem to collect.

The Cayenne is available with the latest generation of audio and communication systems already featured on the Panamera. The system in the Cayenne S is extremely easy to use and as my teenage daughters found, provides superb sound. Now measuring seven inches across, the colour display of the CDR-31 audio system, standard on the Cayenne S, is positioned higher up on the dashboard for enhanced ergonomics and allows quick and simple

control through the touchscreen function. The range of customisation offered by the new Cayenne in terms of both audio and communication systems has been further enhanced over the former model. Like the Panamera, the new Cayenne is available not only with a Bose®, but also with a Burmester® High-End Surround Sound System. The universal audio interface has also been modified, now allowing various iPod® and iPhone® models to be connected by the USB stick to the audio system. As yet a further feature, the telephone module is now compatible with an even larger range of mobile phones.

The optional Bose® Surround Sound System comprises no less than 14 loudspeakers, a 200-Watt active subwoofer with a Class-D terminal and loudspeaker membranes measuring 200 millimetres in diameter, as well as nine amplifier channels to provide a truly impressive experience in sound on overall output of 585 Watt.

The rear seats are better suited to two occupants but are extremely comfortable. The extra 40mm in the wheelbase is quite noticeable here. I am 190cm tall and I fitted with a degree of comfort in the rear.

Importantly the rear seat passengers don't feel enclosed at all. The rear seat backrests may now fold down separately in a 40 : 20 : 40 split, (without removing the headrests on the outer seats) while the rear seat bench as such is 40 : 60 and may be moved to-and-fro 160 millimetres. The angle of the rear seat backrests, in turn, can be adjusted in three stages by up to 60.

Behind the rear seats is plenty of boot space for a family's luggage for a trip to the snow etc. with a volume of 670 litres. The rear seats folding down either completely in split sections increase luggage compartment capacity when required in steps up to 1,780 litres offering ample capacity for transporting even particularly bulky objects such as several bicycles all together. The roof railing provides the foundation for the roof transport system available as an option. Maximum roof load on the new model is 100 kg or 220 lb.

Like all models in the Cayenne range the Cayenne S has an optional towbar with a removable ball head. Maximum towing load is 3.5 tonnes.

An electrically retracting towbar is





also available as an option, in which case the user is able to fold the ball head on the towbar in and out electrically at the touch of a button. When folded up, the electrically retractable towbar disappears completely beneath the rear end of the car. The button for folding the towbar in and out is positioned in the right side panel of the luggage compartment.

The Cayenne S comes with a large range of features as standard but the options list is long and very expensive. Notable options include four-zone automatic air conditioning that allows individual climate control also on the rear seats. Adaptive Cruise Control, Luggage Management System facilitates the individual subdivision of the luggage compartment, Adaptive Sports Seats with a Comfort Memory Package, Lane Change Assistant, seat heating and ventilation etc.

Power for the Cayenne S comes from a 4.8-litre V8, that not only sounds great but also produces power of 294 kW @ 6,500rpm and torque of 500nM @ 3,500rpm. This power is thrust upon the road through an eight-speed Tiptronic S and driving through PTM with active all-wheel drive. The Porsche Cayenne S will accelerate from 0 – 100 km/h in 5.9 sec, has a top speed 258 km/h and drinks the good fuel at a rate of 10.5 ltr/100 km However if you have a heavy right foot that figure will go up considerably around town. The new

Cayenne S does benefit from a reduction in weight of 180Kg and this reflects in performance and handling .

Stopping power is provided by massive brakes. The front brakes are six-piston aluminium monobloc fixed-calliper brakes. On the Cayenne S (silver brakes) the discs measure 360 millimetres in diameter. The rear feature four-piston aluminium monobloc fixed-calliper brakes and brake discs measuring 330 millimetres in diameter. PCCB, Porsche Ceramic Composite Brakes featuring yellow brake callipers is available as an option. The Cayenne S feature 18-inch wheels, but in different design. The new Cayenne also comes with a new generation of tyres further enhanced specifically in terms of their performance, handling, roll resistance, wear and weight.

The transmission comes with an Auto Start Stop function. Auto Start Stop switches off the combustion engine under defined conditions as long as the vehicle is at a standstill, reducing fuel consumption and emissions in the process and thus preventing the engine from idling unnecessarily, for example when stopping at the traffic lights. Like all stop start functions it's a little unnerving until you get used to it.

As soon as the vehicle comes to a halt by applying the brakes and keeping the brake pedal depressed the Auto Start Stop function will switch off the engine after about a second. There is a little green

Auto Start Stop symbol in the instrument cluster to tell you what is going on. So you are effectively sitting at the lights with no engine. Take your foot off the brake though and the engine will start again and the you can set off without a delay.

For reasons of safety, however, this is not possible if the driver's door or the engine compartment lid are open or if the driver is not wearing his seat belt. Under certain conditions the engine is intentionally not switched off when coming to a halt, for example when the you have activated the Sports Mode, when towing a trailer or when the vehicle is in a parking or manoeuvring process. In such cases you are informed by a yellow Auto Start Stop symbol in the instrument cluster that the system has not switched off the engine.

The new eight-speed Tiptronic S, is an absolute gem, with super smooth almost seamless shifts through the gears up or down. It mates perfectly with the engine so you never feel you are in the wrong gear and will give you the acceleration you want without delay. While the overall gear spread range is up by 20 per cent, the extra spread is used completely to make the two additional gears genuine overdrive or economy gears consistently keeping the engine in the optimum speed and load range at all times: Engine speed is reduced by 20 per cent, respectively, in the seventh and eighth gear, serving to substantially





reduce fuel consumption particularly on long stretches of the freeways. It really is amazingly economical in everyday driving. To optimise the engine's starting behaviour, the Cayenne S always sets off in first gear. Top speed, on the other hand, comes in sixth gear.

As in the past, the driver has the choice of the two Normal and Sports modes. Within these basic programs, the gearshift control maps are adjusted even more sensitively to the driver's individual style of motoring. To ensure maximum performance immediately when activating the Sports Button, the control maps on the Tiptronic S transmission shift faster to the sports map than in the Normal mode, suppressing gears 7 and 8 as a function of the driver's style of motoring and the speed of the car, and shifting back when braking even under slight brake pressure in order to provide better acceleration afterwards.

In the Normal mode Tiptronic S offers a particularly economical style of motoring, reducing fuel consumption by shifting up early and shifting down late.

The Tiptronic S transmission also comes with a special offroad mode for rough

terrain. As soon as the driver activates Offroad Mode 1 by pressing the central offroad toggle switch on the centre console, Tiptronic S switches to a gearshift program specially tailored to offroad requirements and focusing in particular on extra traction and the precise dosage of engine power.

Shifting up later and shifting down earlier, this special mode reduces the number of gearshifts by making maximum use of the speed range available in each gear. To ensure optimum control of the vehicle, the transmission does not shift up or down automatically in the manual mode, even when the driver kicks down the gas pedal. A further feature is that the converter lock-up clutch closes at a later point than in the Normal and Sports Mode, allowing better dosage of power particularly at low speeds and in rough terrain.

The driver will generally operate the new eight-speed Tiptronic S transmission via the selector level in the centre console or the two push buttons on the steering wheel. Pressing one of the two buttons forward, he shifts up Tiptronic S, pulling one of the buttons towards himself from behind the steering wheel, the driver shifts down

in Tiptronic S. In practice though most drivers will put it in 'D' and simply let the technology take over.

The thing that most people forget is that the Cayenne is a true off road vehicle. I'm not sure how many owners will take it very far off road though. To facilitate the 4WD prowess Porsche has developed a new concept of all-wheel drive for the new Cayenne, focusing in the process on two factors in particular: lower weight and even greater agility on the road.

The introduction of the new Porsche Traction Management (PTM) together with eight-speed Tiptronic S avoids the need, according to Porsche, for a reduced-ratio gearbox without making any concessions in terms of offroad requirements relevant to the customer under normal conditions. A further advantage of the new PTM is the introduction of numerous measures for the reduction of weight on the rest of the drivetrain. In all, the use of lightweight propeller shafts, lighter final drive units front and rear, and the absence of a reduced-ratio gearbox saves some 33 kilos in weight.

The focus in developing PTM was on optimising driving dynamics on the road while retaining the outstanding offroad qualities of the Cayenne. PTM features active hang-on all-wheel drive with an electronically controlled, map-guided multiple-plate clutch. This hang-on all-wheel-drive system offers benefits in terms of driving dynamics, agility and traction control.

Under all conditions Porsche Traction Management distributes drive power as required from the rear to the front axle, thus combining superior traction and driving stability with unusually dynamic handling. The extremely compact power divider on the all-wheel drive unit featured in the new Cayenne is housed in a separate casing directly next to the transmission.

PTM also comes with the ABD Automatic Brake Differential for improved traction, ASR Anti-Slip Control for improved vehicle stability, and on-demand PHC Porsche Hill Control for driving down steep gradients in a smooth and controlled process.

The Cayenne S, offers further functions operated via a central offroad switch in the centre console: In Offroad Mode 1 all relevant systems such as ABS operate in a traction-oriented offroad program, in addition to Porsche Hill Control. On models with air suspension and PSM, in turn, the suspension automatically switches to the offroad level.

The toggle switch for the air suspension also allows the driver to choose the special offroad level for an even greater embankment and ramp angle as well as greater ride height for driving through water.

Given the active all-wheel-drive system, Cayenne S, comes with yet another optional setting: As soon as the driver selects Offroad Mode 2, the multiple-plate clutch is closed

100 per cent providing even better traction on difficult terrain. At the same time the electronically controlled rear axle differential on the optional Porsche Torque Vectoring Plus (PTV Plus) is integrated in the all-wheel-drive management, automatically ensuring the right dosage of power on particularly bad and rough terrain. Should

one of the rear wheels start to slip on slippery or loose ground, for example, the differential lock will smoothly feed drive power to the opposite rear wheel in order to re-gain traction. Also should conditions require, all the driver has to do is press the offroad toggle switch for Offroad Mode 3, fully closing the rear axle differential in the process.

Featuring this technology, active all-wheel drive in the new Cayenne is identical to the all-wheel-drive system to be seen in the Panamera and Porsche's sports cars. As an option active all-wheel drive on the Cayenne, Cayenne S, and Cayenne Turbo may for the first time be upgraded by new PTV Porsche Torque Vectoring Plus with even greater agility

Interacting with Porsche Traction Management and Porsche Stability Management, PTV Plus also offers enhanced driving stability on various road surfaces, in wet weather and on snow.

Under offroad driving conditions, in turn, PTV Plus prevents the rear wheels from spinning. Yet a further advantage is that any intervention of the brakes is specifically tailored to offroad requirements, the offroad toggle switch in the centre console enabling the driver to apply the rear axle differential lock 100 per cent.

What all this technology means is that the Porsche is an extremely capable off road vehicle without a dual range transfer case. While we didn't take the Cayenne S too far off road due to lack of time, what we did was enough to convince us that we would be more than happy venturing far off road in the Porsche. As long as we didn't have to pay for any repairs... For effective prevention of damage to the underside of the car, the Cayenne S can be equipped with optional off-road under body protection comprising rock rails with integrated skid plates, a reinforced engine-bay guard, additional protection for fuel tank and rear axle, and a second towing lug.

Handling is provided by the standard steel springs which may for the first time be combined as an option with PASM Porsche Active Suspension Management, making the steel suspension even better. Porsche Active Suspension Management is a bumper system for active, infinite

adjustment of the dampers front and rear. On the new Cayenne the driver is able to choose three different programs by means of the PASM suspension buttons on the centre console: Comfort, Normal, and Sport. Depending on the mode selected, road and driving conditions, PASM controls damper power individually on each wheel for optimum results and qualities. PDCC Porsche Dynamic Chassis Control is also an option, which also increases off road ability.

The driver is able to switch PDCC to its offroad mode by means of the toggle switch on the centre console, with the two halves of the active anti-roll bars being largely disconnected from one another in this case for even better traction in rough terrain. This allows greater articulation of the axles, keeping the wheels longer on the ground in order to convey more power and drive force.

Overall safety is amazing with almost every acronym you could imagine, massive brakes, PSM Porsche Stability Management and the options of Porsche Traction Management or optional Porsche Torque Vectoring Plus

Enhanced to an even higher level, sensors in the PSM system permanently monitor the direction of travel, road speed, the yaw rate and the lateral acceleration of the car. Taking these readings, PSM calculates the actual direction of motion. Should this differ from the desired path and track, PSM will activate the brakes as required on individual wheels in order to stabilise the vehicle.

Overall the Porsche Cayenne S is everything you would expect it to be and more. For a AWD SUV starting at around \$165,000 it isn't cheap and yet I can't help but think it is a bargain. For that price you get a vehicle that is capable of taking the family on touring holidays, will tow 3500Kg, is extremely capable off road, has all the safety features you could want, has luxury and prestige and does all this while performing like a sports car. I would say it is certainly near the top of the shopping list for a luxury AWD SUV.

# What's

# ON



*By Vicki Fraser*

## VICTORIA

### ***Ballarat Festival of motoring | 25 Aug- 2 Sep***

Don't miss the excitement when Ballarat celebrates its motor racing heritage. It will be a spectacular 9 day historic sports car, racing car and motorcycle celebration of the city's golden age of motor sport at the Ballarat Festival of Motoring.

Highlights of the Festival will include standing start 400 meter timed sprints and parades of historic racing and sports cars around the majority of the original 1940 - 60's airfield based circuit, with up to 100 cars taking part.

For more details visit [www.ballaratfestivalofmotoring.com.au](http://www.ballaratfestivalofmotoring.com.au)

### ***Kangaroo Hoppet | 25 August 2012***

The Kangaroo Hoppet brings together cross-country skiers for a week's festivities, culminating in a ski marathon through the Bogong High Plains of Victoria's Alpine National Park. The Hoppet is a part of the 15 event Worldloppet series held each year around the world.

The Kangaroo Hoppet is a feast of skiing and social activities at Falls Creek for all ages and abilities leading up to the race itself on the fourth Saturday of August. Spectators are welcome to view the event at the mountain.

For more details visit [www.hoppet.com.au](http://www.hoppet.com.au)

### ***Seduction By Tastebuds | Saturday 11th August***

Be Seduced!...when Dalwhinnie Vineyard Estate in conjunction Andrew Blake present the fourth Seduction By Tastebuds Lunch for 2012.

Seduction By Tastebuds takes you to the wineries of Victoria's Pyrenees Region for a series of slow food lunches matching amazing food to local premium quality wines.

In August, renown celebrity chef, Andrew Blake, whose food has always stood out from a crowd will deliver a glamorous and elegant menu to compliment Dalwhinnies super premium Shiraz, Cabernet, Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay varieties.

For more details visit [www.pyreneestourism.com.au](http://www.pyreneestourism.com.au)  
or call 1800 206 622

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### ***The NAB Barossa Gourmet Weekend | 20 - 21 August 2011***

Banish the winter blues and enjoy the The NAB Barossa Gourmet Weekend. During the weekend 27 wineries will showcase their finest wines paired with heart-warming food and the best of SA live entertainment. With activities for young and the young at heart you are sure to experience Barossa hospitality at its best.

For more details visit [www.barossagourmetweekend.com.au](http://www.barossagourmetweekend.com.au)

### ***Willunga Almond Blossom Festival 28/07/2012 - 29/07/2012***

The festival celebrates the first blossom of the season, an important part of the history and landscape of the area.



Milparinka Gymkhana

The program features the Willunga Farmers Market, the newly formed Artists Market and an outdoor Festival Market, an eclectic and daily festival lunches, an official launch with highlights of the festival, a youth oriented "Big Arvo", a Street Parade, Family Fair Day, week long Festival Lunches and concert series, a fire and light spectacular and a Grand Festival Ball.

For more details visit [www.willungafestivals.com](http://www.willungafestivals.com)

### **Adelaide International Guitar Festival**

**09/08/2012 - 12/08/2012**

Adelaide Festival Centre's Adelaide International Guitar Festival is a unique global music event celebrating the guitar and the masters of the instrument across all musical genres. It will feature classical, flamenco, roots, jazz and world music from the best guitarists around the globe.

It will feature more than 50 national and international artists in 16 performances and three Australian premieres, along with a range of free and low cost workshops, master classes, artist talks and panel discussions for audiences and artists alike.

For more details visit [www.adelaideguitarfestival.com.au](http://www.adelaideguitarfestival.com.au)

## QUEENSLAND

### **Mary Poppins Festival | 24 June – 1 July**

Did you know that Pamela Travers, creator of the world's most famous nanny, was born in Maryborough? Get ready to experience madcap Mary Poppins mania – along with an explosion of history, art and culture - all rolled into 8 days this June-July in Maryborough.

Activities include quirky torchlight tours, horse and carriage rides, free children's workshops, music and live art demonstrations. Also featured are a colourful Mary Poppins Market, a delightful sing-along movie night and a week of workshops and art festivals and themed tours.

### **The signature event is the Mary Poppins Festival in the Park on Sunday | 1 July.**

Nannies will push prams in madcap races; chimney sweeps will compete in crazy challenges while Mary Poppins characters will come to life from the pages of books and mingle with the crowd.

The program includes sidewalk art, a grand costume parade, carnival rides, old fashioned games and children's workshops, street theatre, circus performances, puppets, magicians, steam train rides, kite flying and brass bands.

For more details visit [www.marypoppinsfestival.com.au](http://www.marypoppinsfestival.com.au)



### **Birdsville Races**

**31 August – 1 September**

Since 1882 local residents, horses, riders, families and friends have gathered in Birdsville for a two day race meeting.

Now an internationally recognised major outback event, the carnival includes a 12-race program and prize money in excess of \$110,000.

The Birdsville race track is one of four tracks in Queensland which runs anti-clockwise, attracting over 6,000 race-goers each year.

For more details visit [www.birdsvillerraces.com](http://www.birdsvillerraces.com)

### **Abbey Medieval Festival | 30 June – 8 July**

The Abbey Medieval Festival is a week long festival commencing with a Banquet on Saturday the 30th of June.

On Tuesday the 3rd of July a special Kids Medieval Fun Day runs from 10am-2.30pm. Children can choose from a wide range of workshops and activities and enjoy the fun and excitement of the medieval world. Bookings are essential.

The festival week culminates in a weekend Tournament. At this event patrons can enjoy a range of activities from Jousting to Mock Battles, Dancing, Music, Drama, and wander through the Medieval Market and encampments. There are lots of things to see and do and it is a great day out for the whole family.

For more details visit [www.abbeytournament.com](http://www.abbeytournament.com)



## NORTHERN TERRITORY

### **Adelaide River Races | 25 August**

Join in the excitement of a traditional country race meeting. The Adelaide River Races, set in beautiful shady grounds, feature a seven-race program, with TAB and bookie facilities on site. Bar and food facilities are available, along with children activities. There's also 'Fashion on the Field' and 2-up after the races.

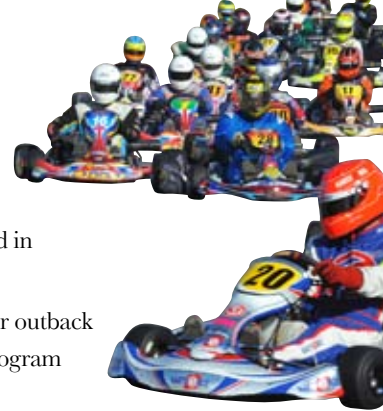
A concert and dance follow the day's races, so with free camping available throw in the swag and tent to spend the evening under the stars.

For more details visit [www.arss.org.au](http://www.arss.org.au)

### **18th Annual Dundee Beach Fishing Competition | 27-28 July**

Dundee is a great place to target big, hard fighting sports fish as well as an opportunity for anglers to target a variety of sport fish. There's even a special prize for the billfish.

Held over two days, this is a great family weekend away with social





activities and entertainment taking part outside the fishing hours. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced angler, come along, wet your line and join in a couple of days of fun. Junior and family participation is encouraged.

For more details visit [www.dundeesrc.org.au](http://www.dundeesrc.org.au)

### **50th Australian National Sprint Kart Championships | 7-8 July**

The 50th Australian National Sprint Kart Championships (at Hidden Valley Motorsports complex) will attract the best karting drivers from around the country to compete for the right to become the Australian champion in their respective category.

It is expected that in excess of 250 competitors will be competing at the prestigious event to be hosted for the first time by the Darwin Karting Association at the Hidden Valley Karting Raceway in Berrimah. drivers from as young as 11 years of age through to competitors more experience in life and over 40 years old will be racing at speeds in excess of 100 kilometers per hour.

Karting is the sport where some of today's top V8 Supercar and Formula 1 drivers started their careers. Just over a decade ago, drivers such as Jamie Whincup, James Courtney and Mark Winterbottom where all front runners in Australian Karting Championships - now they're starring in the V8 Supercar Championship.

Check out the website for more details [www.karting.net.au](http://www.karting.net.au)

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**



### **Maitland Aroma - Coffee Chocolate and Fine Food Festival | 18-19 August**

The Maitland Aroma Festival is a coffee, chocolate and fine food affair that aims to ward off the winter chill with the best local coffee roasters, a delectable range of chocolates and much more including wines, desserts, local cuisine and fresh produce through exhibitors, demonstrations and displays.

For more details visit [www.maitlandaroma.com.au](http://www.maitlandaroma.com.au)

### **Pinetrees Jazz 4 June - 24 August**

The Pinetrees Jazz Program has been running for 20 years, and attracts some of the best bands in Australia.

The Pinetrees Jazz Program is unique. During the day, you can discover Lord Howe's world-class walking, snorkeling, fishing and diving, and have a gourmet barbecue lunch at one of the island's idyllic beaches. In the evening, enjoy fireside drinks, great music and an exceptional four course dinner.

This year features Lionel Robinson and the Dukes of Lounge (4-10 June), Wobbly Boot Jazz and Blues Band (22-28 July), The Moods (30 June - 6 July) and Fireworks (18-24 August). Dinner and

evening jazz performances are open to all Lord Howe guests.

For more details visit [www.pinetrees.com.au](http://www.pinetrees.com.au)

### **Milparinka Gymkhana | 14 July**

The Milparinka Gymkhana is held annually on the second Saturday of the NSW July School Holidays. The day long event takes place on the Milparinka Sports Grounds, just on the north side of Milparinka, alongside the Evelyn Creek.

The gymkhana is a truly bush family day affair, with riders bringing their horses from local station properties as well as some distance away in Queensland and South Australia.

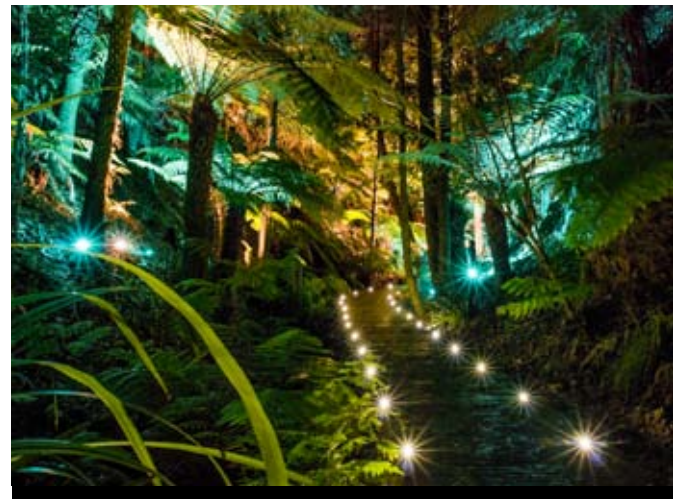
The riders, aged from about two years to, well, who knows, compete in a range of events including novelties such as the bending race, or flat races such as the Milparinka Cup.

All days meals are available, and at night, after prize presentation, entertainment to get everyone up and dancing. Visitors are welcome to join locals at the Milparinka Gymkhana each July.

For more details visit [www.outbacknsw.com.au](http://www.outbacknsw.com.au)

## **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

### **AfterDARK Firefly Tours | 7 July**



Bring new light to a winter's night with the Australian National Botanic Gardens' new afterDARK Firefly Tours. Starting with heart and hand warming hot-chocolate. Families will make a lantern to light their way on a fascinating after dark discovery of the Gardens.

Guides will light your lantern for a tour exploring the biodiversity of different habitats, including the Rainforest Gully that now shines at night with new thematic lighting.

Both children and adults will be enthralled with the magic of this tour when the Gardens glow under their lantern light.

Online bookings essential. Numbers are strictly limited.

For more details visit [www.anbg.gov.au/gardens](http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens)

### **Canberra and Capital Region Truffle Festival | 21 June - 31 July**

Discover the magic of truffles at the Canberra and Capital Region Truffle Festival. The region celebrates these highly prized gems from late June to early August.



Learn from celebrity chefs and other truffle experts. Join a truffle hunt or simply indulge in the special flavours and intoxicating aromas of the truffle dishes at local restaurants, cafes and wineries. Try breakfasts and

lunches or immerse yourself in the grandeur of this exquisite delicacy with sumptuous truffle degustation dinners at various fine dining restaurants.

Truffles are highly seasonal, so events often happen with short notice.

For more details visit [www.trufflefestival.com.au](http://www.trufflefestival.com.au)

### ***Fireside Festival | 1-31 August***

Venues around the Canberra region are turning up the heat this August for the capital's annual celebration of winter - Fireside Festival.

Sip on exquisite cool climate wines, taste the delicacies from the region, meet local artists with a passion for their craft, or just relax and warm yourself on open fires in the company of good friends.

Attend a 100 mile dinner. Enjoy a couples relaxation escape. Try dinners of the duck, truffle or degustation variety. Attend a wine master class and lots more.

Hosted by 25 venues in and around Canberra, the Fireside Festival runs throughout August.

For more details visit [www.firesidefestival.com.au](http://www.firesidefestival.com.au)

## TASMANIA

### ***City of Clarence Open Art Exhibition | 12 July- 9 August***

Clarence City Council will hold an exhibition of local artists including paintings, photography, drawing and printmaking

The Barn, Schoolhouse Gallery and Cottage Museum are set in the landscaped grounds of the Rosny Farm. Rosny Farm is a unique cultural centre in the City of Clarence. The site has important historical roots as a fine example of an early walled farmyard containing a beautiful heritage listed sandstone barn and farm cottage. The historic Barn at the Rosny Farm underwent a program of redevelopment in 2006 transforming it into an exciting new visual and performing arts space. The Barn now plays host to recitals, concerts, exhibitions, lectures and workshops.

For more details visit [www.discovertasmania.com](http://www.discovertasmania.com)

### ***Deloraine Market | 4 August***

Deloraine Market offers a great selection of stalls with fresh produce including venison, farm rabbits, sour dough breads, home cooked cakes, honey, jams, farm vegetables and fruit in season.

There are plants, fruit trees, books, crafts and bric a brac. The kitchen has delicious breakfast and lunch fare and plenty for in-between. It is a wonderful country market, a place to meet with friends and make new ones. Open - First Saturday of each month.

For more details visit [www.discovertasmania.com](http://www.discovertasmania.com)

### ***Harvest Launceston | Every Saturday 9 am - 1 pm***

Harvest Launceston, Tasmania's Community Farmers Market showcases the best local produce on offer in the

State. The stallholder's passion for their produce shines through their innovation, collaboration and imagination. Chef demonstrations, guided market tours with local foodies and other events will be featured.

For more details visit [www.harvestmarket.org.au](http://www.harvestmarket.org.au)

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### ***Staircase to the Moon | 9 March - 4 October***



This natural phenomenon occurs when the full moon rises over the exposed mudflats at extremely low tide, creating the optical illusion of a staircase reaching to the moon.

Staircase to the moon occurs from March to October along the North West Coast and the best viewing spots are at Hearson Cove, Karratha and Roebuck Bay, Broome.

On some event nights, staircase markets are held at Town Beach, Broome where you can sample local fare, purchase crafts and delight in the talented entertainers.

For more details visit [details www.broomevisitorcentre.com.au](http://www.broomevisitorcentre.com.au)

### ***Derby Boab Festival | Until 21 July***

Located in Derby, Western Australia, the Derby Boab Festival has been running as a Community initiative since 1961 - now entering its 52nd year as Western Australia's longest running festival.

The aim of the festival is to promote and coordinate two weeks of events that showcase the talents and attractions of the West Kimberley. There are many events and many different groups involved, the committee thanks all those people who have helped stage the longest running town Festival in Western Australia.

For more details visit [www.derbyboabfestival.org.au](http://www.derbyboabfestival.org.au)

### ***King of the Cross | 4-5 August***

The Southern Cross Motorcycle Club (South Yilgarn) is famous for holding its annual King of the Cross. This prestigious motorcross event is the richest race in Western Australia with prize money totalling AUD30,000. The event takes place on the first weekend of August at the Richie Kings Memorial Park, Southern Cross South Road, Southern Cross.

On Saturday the track is full of juniors for the Kid of the Cross where kids from four to sixteen years old ride on 50cc to 250cc motorbikes can compete for the title of Kid of the Cross.

Sunday's racing includes quad bikes, vets and the only women's motorcross race in Western Australia, Queen of the Cross. The track then comes alive for the Strange Drilling King of the Cross. Riders from all over Australia come to the Southern Cross to compete in this grand event. Full camping, canteen and bar facilities are available throughout the weekend.

For more details visit [www.yilgarn.wa.gov.au](http://www.yilgarn.wa.gov.au)



# WATER, H2O IN YOUR TRAVELS

By Steve Tierney

*Water, water, everywhere, and all the boards did shrink; Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink.*

These famous words were written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. Now to be honest I've heard this saying many a time whilst fishing in the ocean or looking at a mud puddle and not put a lot of thought to it, but, water is a precious thing to have whilst traveling. These days I won't even go to the corner store without a litre of water by my side.

It is said that we can only last 3 to 4 days without water and in some parts of Australia I would say less. A lack of water causes dehydration, which may result in lethargy, headaches, dizziness, confusion, and eventually death. Even mild dehydration reduces endurance and impairs concentration, which is dangerous in a survival situation where clear thinking is essential. So what steps should we take to make sure we have our precious water?

As mentioned before I will carry a litre with me whilst around town, but if traveling some kilometers I will have a 5 litre bottle. Then of course what if I head off for a week with the family, the dog and supplies? Well I estimate that I would need approximately 20 litres a day, this includes drinking, cooking and showering. So if I'm gone for a five day jaunt I would need to carry 100 litres of water!!! That's a lot of water and 1 litre of water weights approximately 1kg so if my math serves me right I would be carrying an extra 100 kilograms in my vehicle.

Most travelers would have facilities to accommodate such a load e.g. a camper trailer or caravan but what if you're not traveling with these luxuries. I found that traveling along the coast there is always a plentiful supply of water, it's when you head inland that you have to calculate and plan ahead. Most fuel stations have water so you can always top up your supply when refueling or stopping for a cup of tea along the way. Maybe even phone ahead to see if there is a sufficient amount of water for you to take. A lot of parks and rest areas are now equipped with some

sort of water source, it's just sensible to plan ahead and keep up the supply. Then there are the real adventurers who get off the beaten track and have to collect their water as they go.

I have seen many a contraption for collecting water from creeks, rivers, the occasional dam and bore holes, all with varying degrees of success. I've always been a bit fussy with my water quality.

The option is to boil to kill the bacteria/germs that may be present in the water but there is also the option of filtering your water before it goes into your storage tank. The best device I have found for this is a simple water pump with the right attachments, a twin housing assembly which has a sediment filter and a carbon filter (silver infused). The silver is a known bacteria fighter and is the preferred option when filtering water from a flowing stream or similar. Now you can always boil the finished product but I have found with this simple system the water taste fantastic and is very clean.

Make sure it is manufactured according to NSF and Water Manufacturers Association Standards there are some cheap imports out there and you don't want your unit to crack or fall apart out in the sticks!!

I got the crew from Cooee Water (Ph 1300026633) to make up a similar pump with filters for me. Only difference, I have two filters on the unit and I can detach the pump and use water mains pressure when filling my tanks.

So remember keep tabs on your water supply, drink plenty of it and enjoy your travels. Remember for us adults, there is no harm in finishing off the day with a glass of red or maybe some amber fluid.....don't filter that though as it may take away the ambiance, not to mention the taste!!

*It is said that we can only last 3 to 4 days without water and in some parts of Australia I would say less.*





# THE 2012

# WINNEBAGO

# DIVERSION

# MOTORHOME RANGE

*By Rob Fraser*

*Winnebago's stylish motorhome, the 2012 Diversion, is now available in two distinctly different internal layouts, both of which are extremely functional and practical. The 2012 Winnebago Diversion Range starts from \$119,990 RRP.*

The Diversion motorhome range has always offered complete and utter luxury for driver and passengers alike. Spacious, refined and highly equipped, you can relax in the soft front seats which swivel around. How about relaxing, depending on your layout, on the rear ultra-leather sofa lounge which electronically adjusts to a sumptuous day lounge or comfortable double bed. Or even try the twin lounges which also double as single beds converted to a double bed if required.

Diversion can sleep four adults as it is equipped with an electric roll down bed which drops from the ceiling at the touch of a button and can be stopped in any position, used as a low double bed or is adjustable to create a "bunk effect" to sleep additional people.

Just released by Winnebago to the market and now available in the Diversion range is the choice of a twin lounge area in the rear of the vehicle, the lounge cushions doubling as single beds to provide addition full size bedding if so desired. Whilst the lounges can be kept in a single bed format, they are easily converted to a large double bed by simply sliding the lounge seats towards the centre.

In both layouts, the Diversion is equipped with seatbelts for four people to allow everyone to travel legally and with safety.

Effectively and cleverly, Diversion offers two living areas for those traveling including the very spacious kitchen area, noticeable when you first enter the motorhome through the oversized side sliding door.

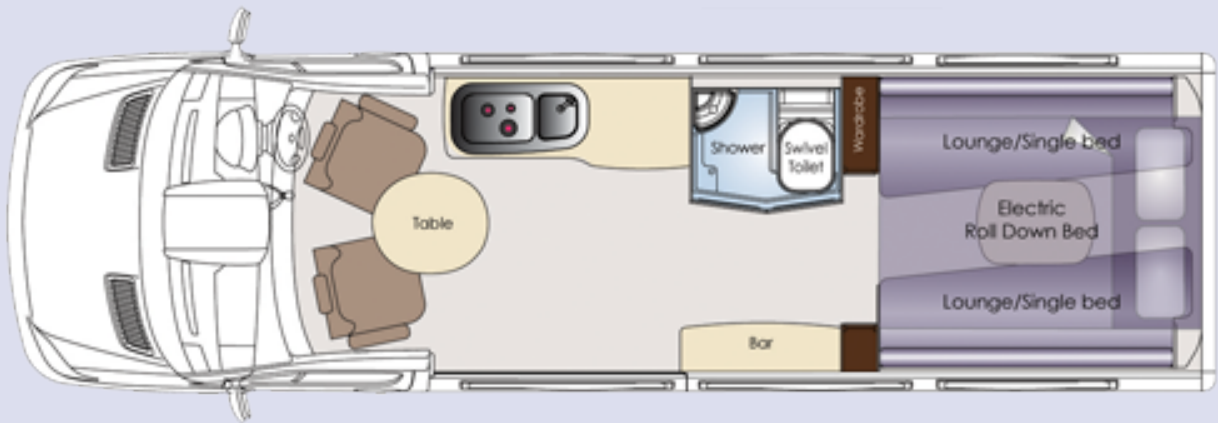
Certainly the feeling upon entering the Diversion is one of space and luxurious refinement, the light coloured furniture complimenting the sumptuous beige ultra-leather trim including the driver and passenger seats which swivel and recline to provide the ultimate in relaxation.

Enjoy a fantastic meal from the large well equipped kitchen and the bathroom is oversized in comparison to other equivalent motorhomes as to better accommodate your personal needs offering hot and cold showers, a flushing toilet, vanity and ample fresh water supply.

The Diversion is manufactured on the world renowned Mercedes Benz 316 which offers everything for which Mercedes Benz is recognised as the premier motor vehicle builder worldwide. The powerful 2.2 litre turbo diesel engine flawlessly interacts with the 5 speed fully automatic or manual transmission to provide a smoother ride with power to spare.

The high specification level on offer includes the electric windows and mirrors, cruise control and trip computer and all the safety related features expected from a Mercedes Benz vehicle.

# V7304



To compliment this very high specification level, Winnebago provides within the living area of the motorhome, standard features such as an external wind out awning, a flat screen television with a built in DVD player all supported by a power boosted TV aerial, a refrigerator which operates on three power sources either 240 volt supply and gas or battery power. It also offers roof air conditioning for cooling or heating, a large shower with hot and cold water supply from the fresh water holding tank, a flushing toilet and hand basin and much more.

Winnebago supports its product with the best RV warranty on the market, a two year or one million kilometres warranty (whichever comes first) and a 5 year structural warranty as well as two years free emergency roadside assist for additional peace of mind together with the largest network of accredited service centres.

## DIVERSION SPECIFICATIONS

Chassis Mercedes Benz 316 EXL Van

Engine 4 cyl turbo diesel 2143ccwww

Power 120kw@3800rpm 161HP

GVM 3880kg

GCM 5880kg

Fuel capacity 75ltr diesel

Licence Car licence

Length 7500mm

Width 2043mm

Height 2855mm

Fresh water 125lt

Grey water 74lt

LP gas 2 x 4kg

Hot water 14lt

Recommended Retail Price from \$119,990 plus dealer delivery, registration and government statutory charges.



# THE 2012

# TRAKKA

# TRAKKADU



*By Rob Fraser*

*The 2012 Trakka Trakkadu is a rare dual purpose vehicle ideally suited for everyday driving as well as holiday touring. Trakka's Trakkadu AWD vehicle comes with optional all terrain or off road capabilities. The Trakkadu is priced from \$75,500 drive away in NSW.*

Australia's award winning motorhome and campervan manufacturer, Trakka, has released the Trakkadu in 103kW and 132kW models with optional All Terrain (AT) or Off Road Pak (ORP) packages available for additional off road performance.

Martin Poate, General Manager of Trakka, says that the Trakkadu is ideal for short trips away or for the iconic big trip around Australia.

"The Trakkadu is compact to use as a day-to-day car as it fits easily into parking spaces at the shops," Mr. Poate explained.

"But the beauty of the Trakkadu is that it is always ready for a trip away. There is ample storage space and a multi-position sliding bed/seat at the rear with ADR approved seating for two additional passengers if you decide to travel with friends."

"The Trakkadu features a low profile elevating roof which provides an open living area within and great ventilation."

"We have designed a gas strut assisted lift roof, which is easy

and light to raise and provides a roomy interior."

"By swiveling the two front seats and erecting the indoor/outdoor table, you can enjoy an open living and dining area," Mr. Poate explained.

The Trakkadu is self contained with the kitchen boasting the latest diesel-powered cooktop with an elegant ceramic surface and a stainless steel sink, so you can stop and stay or pick up and move anytime.



“The weekly grocery shop is easy and convenient in a Trakkadu, with the handy inclusion of a fridge/freezer for quick refrigeration of cold items.” “It is also reassuring to have fresh water on board the Trakkadu. It gives you the peace of mind that you can travel to even remote locations with living essentials still at hand,” Mr Poate explained.

A deep cycle AGM house battery keeps the accessories on line and a solar charging system can be added as an option to boost the power supply.

A Trakka designed Electronics control system monitors two batteries, water tank levels, temperature and control circuits so travelers are aware of the campervan efficiencies at the touch of a button.

Based on the Volkswagen T5, the Trakkadu’s 4Motion all-wheel-drive model allows the campervan to be more sure-footed over slippery or rough terrain.

“The 4Motion system provides extra reserves of traction and gives a reassuring sense of safety, even in adverse weather conditions or on treacherous road surfaces,” Mr. Poate explained.

The Trakkadu comes in a 103kW turbocharged diesel engine or 132kW twin turbocharged diesel engine. Both options deliver high torque output to provide a smooth and responsive drive. 6-speed manual or 7-speed Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG) automatic transmissions are available for both models with the ORP offering a low ratio gearbox and larger All Terrain tyres for improved all wheel drive.

Like all Trakka models, the Trakkadu is engineered and constructed in Trakka’s production facility at Mt Kuring-Gai which utilises precise 3D CAD design, the highest quality materials and world-class build technologies.



# Cooking

with *Brianna*

By Brianna Fraser

## *Dad's Famous Campfire Stew*

**Serves: 6-8**

**Cooking time: 1 hr & 30 minutes**

Many of my childhood memories consist of camping around a fire and eating my Dad's famous stew. It's the perfect recipe for a cold winter's night whether you are camping in the outback or sitting at home around the table.

### **Ingredients:**

1 tbsp olive oil  
2 cloves of garlic (4 tbsp)  
1 large brown onion  
1 medium sweet potato  
5 potatoes, washed  
250g green beans  
1 large carrot  
600g beef strips or cubes  
1L chicken stock  
420g tomato soup (1 tin)  
420g diced tomato (1 tin)  
165g traditional gravy  
140g packet slow cooking beef & red wine casserole sauce  
1/2 cup barbeque sauce  
2 tsp worcestershire sauce  
420g sweet corn (1 tin)  
420g chickpeas or kidney beans (1 tin)  
1/3 cup of red wine

### **Method:**

1. Saute garlic and onions off in olive oil until translucent.
2. Slice sweet potato and potatoes into 2 cm cubed. Top and tail beans and cut in half. Thinly slice the carrot. Leave all to the side.
3. Place cooked onions in a bowl and then cook meat until brown. Pour in all of the stock and the slow cooking beef & red wine casserole sauce with the cooked onions.
4. Place into pot tomato soup, diced tomato, gravy and potatoes. Stir and bring to boil. Cook for 15 minutes stirring every couple of minutes.
5. Pour in barbeque sauce and worcestershire with the carrots and sweet potato. Cook for 15 minutes whilst stirring so it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pot.
6. Pour in corn, chickpeas, beans and red wine. Turn on low and cook for 40 minutes.
7. Serve hot with damper and enjoy.





# Damper

**Preparation time:**  
15 minutes

**Cooking time:**  
20-30 minutes

Nothing goes better with a hearty stew or soup than a home cooked damper. Try this easy and fool proof recipe to achieve a tasty golden damper.

## **Ingredients:**

3 cups self raising flour  
1 1/4 cups water  
pinch of salt  
milk, for brushing

## **Method:**

1. Place flour, salt and water in a bowl and mix well.
2. Lightly flour a flat surface or kneading board and knead the dough until well combined and the mixture forms a round shape.
3. Place on a greased tray and generously brush the top with milk.
4. Cook for 20-30 minutes or until golden, sounding hollow when tapped on top.
5. Serve hot out of the oven with your favourite stew or soup.

# Bacon & Egg Pies

**Makes: 4**

**Cooking time: 35 minutes**

For a twist on the traditional Sunday morning Bacon & Eggs, try these quick and easy individual Bacon & Egg Pies.

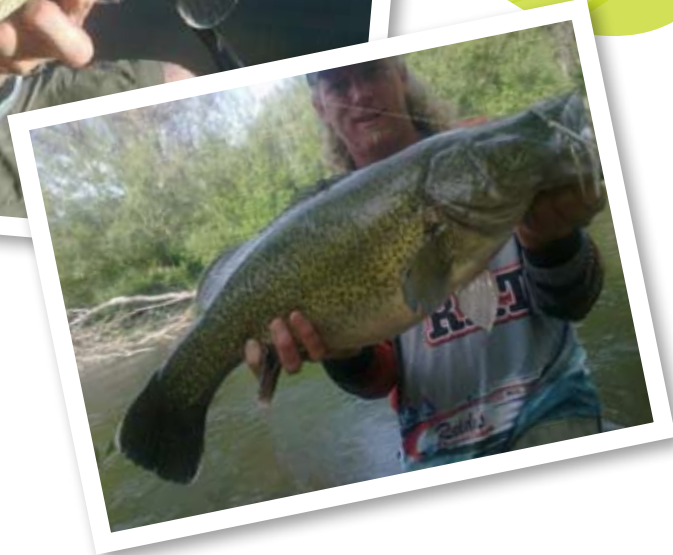
## **Ingredients:**

Butter, for greasing  
8 rashers of short cut bacon  
8 eggs  
2 shallots  
Salt, pepper and mixed herbs to season

## **Method:**

1. Pre heat oven to 180°C and grease 4 individual round pie tins.
2. Line each pie tin with 2 bacon rashers and place in oven for 10 minutes or until bacon rashers are crisp.
3. Finely slice shallots and set aside.
4. Crack 2 eggs in a bowl and whisk in some of the shallots and 2 pinches of salt, pepper and mixed herbs.
5. Pour mixture into one pie tin over the bacon. Repeat for the remaining tins.
6. Cook for 25 minutes or until cooked to your liking.
7. Serve hot out of the oven, garnish with left over shallots and enjoy!





# FISHING FOR FUN

*By Steve Trembath*

The day started out with the usual expectations; explore, enjoy, and catch fish!

We had arrived mid May to a crisp clear morning full of cockies running riot masses of ducks, herons and the unmistakable sound of a whistling kite.

Our destination, the Murray River at Corowa NSW. For those of you who haven't camped along its banks do it! Massive red gums, sandy beaches and plenty of fish! Most sort after the Murray cod.

As usual I'm getting fishing gear ready before camp's set, priorities! I'm lucky enough to have a small tinnie that has just the basics flotation and an engine. Usually when you get to a new spot it takes some time and effort to find the fish, the Murray is no exception to this rule but I will give you a few tips that speed along the catching of a cod.

Murray cod are a very lazy fish that will sit under a snag in little or no current just waiting for the food to come to them. However they will attack with lightning speed, anything that comes into range. So the first rule for cod is to get into the snags, then closer, then closer. If you are not losing lures, hooks etc. you are not fishing in the right spot. Any back water or back eddy will be prime areas.

Finally camp set to satisfaction. Time to fish! I had my mate Mick along for this trip. Today we decided to troll deep diving lures in among the snags. As you troll along you need to have your lure bouncing among the timber. Holding your rod in your hand is a necessity as you will have to drop the rod back as it hits a snag to

let the lure float off the timber. A short jerk will get the lure back down into the strike zone.

I like trolling in a new area as you can inspect the likely fishing spots at a slow speed.

Doing this we found a small creek feeding into the Murray and decided to toss lures into the mouth.

First cast from Mick connected him to a ripper cod. As usual the cod tried to fight dirty running back into the snags. Me at the engine, Mick yelling conflicting instructions, left, left, no, no not that left the other left! He finally got the cod out into clear water a slow steady fight for a few minutes had him up beside the boat. Nice net shot, and we had a 82 centimeter cod into the boat. Appox 16 pound. Mick was wrapped. A few photos later and we let the cod go to live another day.

These fish are not bad eating but when they get more than 65cm they can be very fatty. You are much better getting a photo and releasing.

*The Murray has come alive since it has received plenty of rain. The fishing has improved out of sight and it is well worth the trip.*

All along the Murray there are plenty of bush camps and caravan parks, so come along and give it a go!

See you next mouth,  
Steve.



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**Corowa NSW**

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P.O.BOX 305 CHERRYBROOK NSW 2126  
A.B.N. 78 094 263 493