

# Holiday lifestyle of The Blonde Nomads

**Rob and Tracy Morris have always loved traveling, experiencing new and wonderful places around Australia.**

And they weren't going to let having two young children stop them.

They've now included Marli and Ziggy in every step of their nomadic lifestyle, providing them rich experiences in their early years, including a visit to Snowy River country last week as part of their 12-month lap of the Australia.

As The Blonde Nomads, this young family documents its new, ever-changing lifestyle, sharing their experiences and travel tips via social media on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube as well as their The Blonde Nomads website.

Rob, a builder/carpenter by trade, and Tracy, a photographer, graphic designer and marketing manager, left their 'normal' lives behind when they made the decision, just four months in preparation, to "pack it all in, sell our home and go on this permanent adventure!"

"We wanted to break away from the 'normal' nine to five work day, simplify our lives and get back to nature by exploring this amazing country as well as being together as a family," they said.

"Ten years ago we travelled just the two of us in a campervan around Australia, and then we did a caravan trip when Marli was a baby before Ziggy came along.

"Now that our family of four is complete it felt like it was time to do it again.

"We were originally going

to rent out our house in Sydney, but at the last minute we decided to sell it... so now we have no ties and really are embracing all things 'nomadic'!"

Traveling full-time in a caravan, the young family chases the sun, swims in the ocean as much as they can and loves to be salty, sandy and sun kissed. And they've found the perfect blend that allows them to live a life that, to them, is simply magic.

"Over the past five years we have worked as social media influencers working with brands and businesses creating photo and video content of our travels as well as sharing family travelling tips via our blog and social media pages," they said.

"We had a lot of interest from tourist destinations wanting to work with us so we thought - let's embrace these opportunities and give this a real go and be full time 'Blonde Nomads' - so we took the leap, sold most of our possessions, including the house, and haven't looked back!"

"We have some amazing brands behind us for this awesome adventure including BCF, Kathmandu, Oz Tent, Redarc and are also ambassadors for Jayco Caravans, who have provided us with our 22-foot caravan."

The Blonde Nomads have loved waking up as a family, opening their front caravan window and seeing a new view for the day.

"We have seen all types of wildlife from our window including kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and even dolphins and whales! It's



**The Blonde Nomads are traveling the country, getting sand between their toes at various coastal locations. (ps)**

magic!" they said.

And they encourage anyone even remotely considering this nomadic lifestyle to give it a go.

"There are more and more families embracing this kind of lifestyle," they said.

"Whatever your situation is, you can find a way to make it work. If budget is a concern there are loads of different ways you can travel Australia and options to work as you go.

"If you are nervous about travelling with the kids, start small with a few shorter trips and work up from there."

There are plenty of tips shared by The Blonde Nomads via social media and "there are some great Facebook groups you can join with supportive families willing to share their experiences and tips".

Being on the road and traveling so far away from home can have its disadvantages,

but none that can't be overcome, Rob and Tracy say.

"We are close to our family so we do miss them," they said.

"We have regular video phone calls to all our family and friends to keep in touch - the kids love it. And we have also planned for our family to join us on our travels along the way, which will be great."

While Marli and Ziggy are yet to reach school age, Rob and Tracy won't necessarily stop their travels to pull their children into the mainstream system of education.

"We have no problem with the idea of home schooling the kids - so if we are still on the road after this 12-month lap we will look into distance education or home schooling," they said.

Rob and Tracy love the lifestyle that's providing them and their children with such rich experiences.

"We can take our home any-

where we want to and explore every corner of this beautiful country," they said.

"We plan to follow the sun, and if it rains, we can simply pack up and move on."

They have traveled to some amazing places over the past few years - they've been flown to the Cook Islands, Hamilton Island and even been sent to Heron Island to capture the baby turtles hatching!

"The kids are very well travelled and we have shared some amazing experiences," they said.

"We have met some great people on our travels and a few mentioned that a visit to Marlo and Orbost was a must.

"Upon arriving in the area we were warmly welcomed with some good old fashioned friendliness and hospitality. We had an amazing meal at the Marlo Hotel and were welcomed by managers,

Russell and Rachel, with a friendly smile and chat."

They said they had such a good meal they returned the following night after an exciting afternoon visiting the Jarrahmond dairy farm of Dennis and Sammi Reynolds and their boys.

"We had a great day exploring Cape Conran and enjoyed a walk on the coast and a play at the beach," they said.

"We even met a seal along our coastal walk, resting on the sand, which was a highlight."

A little bit of rain during their stay saw them venture to the Marlo café and tackle shop for a cuppa as well as the Orbost library to read some books with Marli and Ziggy and view the museum.

The Blonde Nomads are now on their way further south through Gippsland to Tasmania before continuing their lap of the country.



**The Morris family experienced the hands-on life of a dairy farm, visiting the Jarrahmond farm of Dennis and Sammi Reynolds. s378-1**



**A spot of rain didn't stop The Blonde Nomads enjoying a visit to Marlo where the clouds parted for some great shots over the estuary. (ps)**

## Have Your Say

### VCAT preparation

Sir,- I am being asked frequently about progress with stopping the natural gas daughter station being built at 10-12 Clarke Street, Orbost. The community is very aware that the site is in the middle of the tourist hub close to the Forest Park children's playground, residential housing, St Joseph's Primary School and the CBD.

Preparation for the VCAT hearing in March 2018 is continuing.

We have started a new petition. It is available for signing at the Orbost Newsagency and this petition will be presented at VCAT. If you feel the location of the purposed daughter station is

wrong, please pop in and sign it.

Our members are preparing further information to present to VCAT. As Enwave has engaged a major legal firm to represent them at VCAT, we are keen to engage professional help to assist us in the presentation of our case to VCAT to overturn the East Gippsland Shire decision. This could be very costly.

People have asked how they can help. The Go Fund Me continues and has raised \$5520. The VCAT application cost was \$836.20.

We are accepting donations through Go Fund Me or donations can be made at the Orbost Newsagency. Receipts are available. Should any funds remain after the VCAT hearing, they will be donated back to the Orbost community.

We are organising a garage sale to be held on November 24 at 15 Clarke Street. Further de-

tails in next week's *Snowy River Mail*.

We are looking for donations, so if you feel like having a de-clutter of your house or shed of goods to donate to our garage sale please let me know at the newsagency.

Yours etc.,

Paulene Hambling, Orbost Community Action Group.

### NAB charges

Sir,- NAB is charging like a wounded bull.

NAB has cut hours for accessibility to banking with a teller in Orbost and now this ... it is now charging \$7 for a read out of your own money.

### Contact

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As if its \$5.3 billion profit isn't enough along with suspending many workers making it that much harder on families and the community. Banks have become too greedy, come on look after customers, particularly in the country and isolated areas.

I like customer service with a person I can talk to not a computer; give me a choice please.

Keep people in jobs and customer satisfaction and don't let it become a service of the past.

Banks, I believe, are opening a Pandora's box. The hackers in our midst will be rubbing their hands with glee as more people are forced to use their computers; identity theft, confidentiality and security will be breached.

Yours etc.,

Heather Terrell, Newmerella.