

Tom & Doreen's notes:

General tips from Tom

Tighten those wheel nuts

Make sure that you guard against losing a wheel by regularly checking that your caravan wheel nuts are tight. They can work their way loose on occasions and significant body damage will occur if the wheel comes off. Pay particular attention to this some 25 kilometres after changing a wheel and as part of your weekly inspection on a big trip.

Most instances of wheels coming off are preventable.

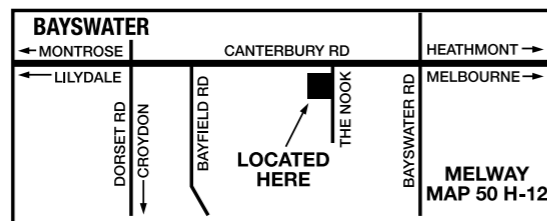
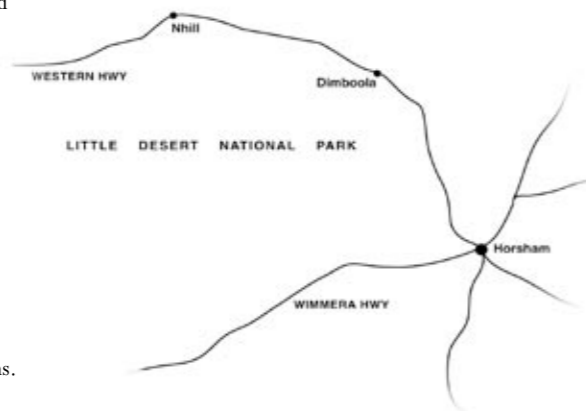
Brake Controller use: The manual control slide lever on your electric brake controller is a useful tool. Use it to warm the brakes up and get the rust off the linings if the van has been sitting still for some time and test that the brakes are operating evenly. You will notice in your mirrors that the van pulls to one side if one wheel is braking more strongly than the other. The manual control will assist in the event of caravan sway, however it should not be used as a substitute for proper towing equipment.

Travelling in a convoy? Don't leave home without a CB Radio in all the cars. This will make your trip much more enjoyable with the opportunity for banter and planning on route. It makes it seem as though all parties are in a bus together. Useful also for receiving information from truckies or Police regarding road conditions ahead. \$200 will set you up. Talk to your local CB radio supplier or Tom Harding. (Hardings do not sell CB radios)

Doreen's destination – Little Desert National Park

Our meanderings on the way home from the recent Adelaide Caravan Show have added a new place to our "Must Do List" The Caravan and Camping Ground in the Little Desert National Park just south of Kiata on the Western Highway in north central Victoria. A desert by name only, rainfall can actually reach 600mm annually in the southern part of the park offering a spectacular wildflower show to visitors in spring. Home to the endangered Mallee Fowl or "Lowan" as known by the local aborigines, the park started in 1955 as a 217 hectare reserve and has increased over the years to 124,000 hectares, ensuring the preservation of the fowl's habitat and that of the 670 species of native plants.

The park specialises in sunsets and "peace and quiet" in a beautiful bush setting and is an ideal overnight stop for those travelling along the Western Highway. Whilst there visit renowned Mallee Fowl expert Whimpy Reichelt at The Little Desert Lodge. Contact the Nhill Information Centre (ph 03 5391 3086) for information regarding camping areas and local conditions.



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Toms on-road tip: "Use the left hand line"

Our better quality highways have a white line on the left hand side with a further one to two metres of sealed surface before the shoulder of the road. When you are travelling on such a road, position the near side caravan wheel on or near this line. This will maximise the distance between your rig and others passing you from the opposite direction.

Harding's top ten accessories

1. Outdoor matting – tough, non slip, keeps you off the dirt.
2. Sullage hose with quick release fittings – throw away that bucket!
3. Mains pressure tap and drinking water hose – forget the hand pump!
4. Spirit Level – two way indicator for easy and precise levelling.
5. Level wedge for sloping sites.
6. Wheel Chocks for parking on a hill.
7. Anti theft locks – peace of mind.
8. Couple Mate hookup aid – save your bumper and your marriage!
9. Hardings side wind jack.
10. Roadside stop books – where to stop for lunch.

Winter 2000

Caravan Talk

Important information

It is with a good deal of sadness that we announce the closing of the Murrumbeena premises effective the 30th April 2000. The site has been sold and no trading will take place after that date. All of your service and retail requirements can be fulfilled from our Bayswater store with the same level of quality and service.

This brings to a close a long history (some 35 years) of Caravan related trading from Murrumbeena Road and we understand that it will be a disappointment to many caravanners local to the area. However the site was not owned by Hardings and ultimately the decision was not within our control.

Again we emphasise that this has no impact on Hardings Caravans Services at Bayswater, in fact our workshop capacity and stock levels there will increase due to the relocation of staff and equipment from Murrumbeena. So it's definitely business as usual at Bayswater.

Some answers to your questions:

Why don't Hardings open another site in the same area?

Because of the special premises requirements, finding an appropriate venue with parking, retail, workshop and caravan storage facilities at a sensible price has proved impossible.

What is happening to the staff?

We are delighted to announce that all permanent Murrumbeena staff will be joining us at Bayswater. In fact did you know that Ed Murray, who left us from Murrumbeena late last year, has rejoined us and is already part of the Bayswater team.

I live in Sandringham, Bayswater is just too far away!

We appreciate your frustration, and will do our best to minimise your inconvenience. For example with a retail part that we can

We warmly invite our South Eastern Suburbs Customers to join us at Bayswater and trust that you will do so.

identify over the telephone, don't leave home at all, we will send it to you. For a routine undercarriage service to your van, make a booking to have it done while you wait. Our workshop capacity has increased so take advantage of it. For parts that you must inspect before purchase ring ahead and make sure we hold it until you arrive.

What are Bayswater's trading hours?

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm.
 Saturday 8.00am to 2.00pm

Murrumbeena has always carried more stock than Bayswater. Will Bayswater's stock level increase?

Because Bayswater has a smaller showroom this has been more of a perception than a reality.

In terms of caravan spares Bayswater has always had them all but slightly less sinks, stoves, fridges, tap sets etc. We do not plan to carry a full range of fridges and stoves on the floor but most other "home builder" items we will be on display.

I was in the Murrumbeena store recently. Why wasn't I told?

We felt that it was fairer to all customers to make a collective announcement in this newsletter.

How are you going to fit the stock in at Bayswater?

We have a large upstairs store area where we will house lower volume stock. So if you can't see what you need please ask, it may be hidden away somewhere.

Can I ring in on the old Murrumbeena telephone number?

Yes, after April 95690677 will connect you through to Bayswater for some months.

What will happen to the Trip Planning Seminars currently held at Murrumbeena?

These popular and important sessions will continue at another venue to be announced soon.

Key dates for your diary

See you at The 2000 Caravan & Camping Show Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

Wed 5 April 10am to 7pm

Thurs 6 April 10am to 10pm

Fri 7 April 10am to 10pm

Sat 8 April 10am to 7pm

Sun 9 April 10am to 7pm

Trip Planning Seminar at Murrumbeena

For those preparing to do the Big One!

13th April 6pm to 9pm

Get To Know Your Caravan Seminars

Learn about your caravan at Bayswater 2pm to 5pm

13th May

17th July

Outdoor Leisurefest at Sandown Racecourse

Our Spring Mini Show

Tentative Dates: October 27, 28 & 29.

Congratulations to Mr Jim Wootton from East Ivanhoe who was the lucky winner of the Caravan World Magazine subscription competition held recently.

Staff Tributes:

Graeme Muntz is retiring from full time duties in April and carrying on in the capacity of Saturday Manager at Bayswater. Graeme has been a long and loyal member of Hardings and the Caravan Industry and is highly regarded for his tremendous knowledge. We are delighted to retain his services and invite his customer friends to come in and give him some cheek between 8am and 2pm on Saturdays.

Andrew Gallop our service manager at Murrumbeena left us in January to pursue his engineering interests. Andrew made a substantial contribution to the business and was highly regarded by customers and peers. Thank you Andrew.

Jim Hall is leaving us to pursue the life of a retired gentleman at his new beachside ponderosa at Rye. Jim has been the friendly face of caravanning at our Murrumbeena counter and endeared himself to many customers. Good Luck and thankyou Jim!

Regards Greg & Fiona Harding.

Workshop news & information

What's happening

My van is too low! We seem to have struck a cord with the article in last edition, on raising the height of your caravan because many people have chosen to have that job done. A reminder that if you are sick of bending rear caravan jacks and grinding your level ride bars on the ground we have the solution.

Gas cooker too slow? We have made contact with a company who in some instances can improve performance by enlarging the burner jets. Ring GASCO on 95690411.

Electric Brake Wiring across the axle is critical to the performance of your brakes. We regularly do upgrades to ensure the following standards:

- Minimum gauge wire 4mm
- Twin core wire, individually, and then collectively sheathed.
- All joints soldered

- Screw connectors eliminated
- Earth wires run direct to pin 3 on the plug or secured to the back of the A frame, not to the chassis behind the wheels.
- Brake wiring from the plug joins at the middle of the axle to ensure equal current flow to each wheel.
- Minimum spacings of 500mm between ties to secure wires across the axle.

Tandem Axle Caravan with a load sharing rocker style suspension? You should inspect the bushes and linkages between the springs. These are a routine maintenance area for heavy tandems. Support the van securely on jacks. Remove both wheels on one side. Chock one brake drum with a brick and use a crowbar or 6' length of 3' by 2' timber and lever under the other brake drum. Watch for movement around the bolts and shackle plates. For a van that weighs 2 ton expect some maintenance every 20,000 kms.

Please make a booking! When bringing in your caravan to us it is essential that we know you are coming. Call and arrange a time so that we can endeavour to give you uninterrupted attention. A flurry of cars and caravans all at once compromises our ability to give you the service that you deserve.

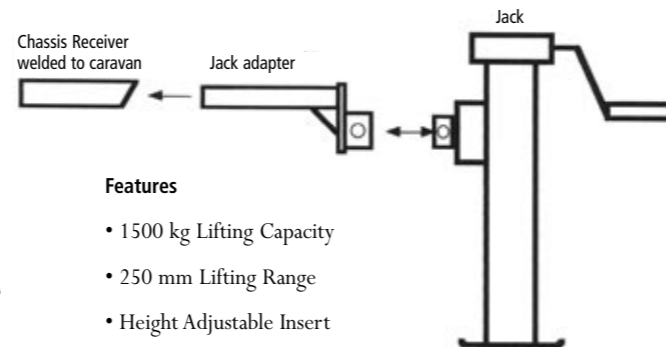
Hardings' Caravan Jack Assembly

Caravanners know the difficulty of changing a wheel on route. Murphy's Law says that it will be wet, that the offending wheel will be the road side and that the road surface is uneven or shifting. Well Hardings' Law say relax. Because with a side wind jack and adapter points on your caravan you can change a wheel with ease and safety.

We weld a receiver point onto the caravan chassis behind each wheel and supply a height adjustable adapter that locks into the side wind jack. The jack itself is a quality product made in Italy and has a lifting capacity of 1500 kg. Complete with a deep offset handle for effective winding leverage it is virtually maintenance free apart from a grease nipple requiring an occasional lube.

Operation is simple:

- Secure the caravan by either leaving it connected to the car or positively chocking the other wheel.
- Select the appropriate height of the adapter and slide it into the chassis receiver on the van.
- Attach the jack to the adapter and secure it with the pin. The jack has now become part of the caravan chassis and cannot slip.
- Wind the handle until the wheel is off the ground. It's that easy.
- Safety Rules require that you do not get under a caravan that is supported by a jack.



Features

- 1500 kg Lifting Capacity
- 250 mm Lifting Range
- Height Adjustable Insert

Benefits

- Lifts the Caravan body off the wheel allowing easy removal
- Safety and stability
- Usable on shifting or lumpy ground surfaces
- Quick to use, gets you off the road fast!
- Also usable for levelling on uneven sites

Hardings Caravan Jack Price

Supply jack, adapter and install 2 chassis receivers. \$195

Occasional modifications include:

- 2 extra receivers for a tandem van. \$30
- Remove existing jack points not compatible. \$30
- Remove and refit mud flaps to allow welding. \$20
- Reinforce inadequate outriggers.POA

Destination anywhere on an unpowered site!

So you would like to stay in one of Australia's spectacular National Parks and use the 12 volt lights in the van....

What's' involved?

Most late model caravans are wired to run interior lights using a 12 volt supply. The round ceiling lights contain a 21 watt bayonet type globe which provides adequate general lighting in the van unless you want to read a book with small print or thread the eye of needle to sew on a missing button. For the odd night or two away from power these are adequate. But if you plan to be a regular user it is well worth upgrading the lighting so that you can really enjoy your bush camping.

Four areas need considering for a well set up rig.

- Firstly the cook needs to be looked after. Fitting a 12 volt 8/16 watt florescent light under the kitchen bench will work well because the light reflects off the wall, bench and underside of overhead cupboard. The 8/16 watt light has two 8 watt tubes in it with a three way switch to allow you to turn on one or two tubes and save power when you need to.
 - Secondly, most of us love to read in bed and the overhead oyster light is simply not adequate, so reading lights are a must. We have some small 10 watt halogen lights just right for the job which can fit onto the face of a cupboard and provide a sharp but compact light beam excellent for reading.
 - Thirdly external lighting is important. If you have a 12 volt globe in the outside oyster light I would recommend replacing it with a 10 watt halogen globe which will provide around the same level of light for half the power draw. Alternatively a hand held "Versa lite" is a good solution and has other benefits too. For about 12 watts current draw it is powerful enough to read by and can be hung over your outdoor table or BBQ. Versa lites come fitted with a cigarette plug which means that they are also useful for changing a wheel in the dark in an on road situation. For use inside or outside the caravan simply remove the 12 volt globe from the holder and plug in the adapter lead. This has a cigarette socket on the other end into which you can plug the Versa lite.
 - Finally you need to decide whether the interior 12 volt caravan lights are adequate. If not, you may want to fit an additional 20 watt halogen unit into the ceiling or mount a spotlight under an overhead cupboard near the table. Remember also that you can replace the existing 21 watt globes with either a 10 or 20 watt halogen. My experience is that a 10 watt halogen provides similar light to the 21 watt conventional globe for half the current draw or go up to a 20 watt halogen for improved performance with the same battery draw. For best results take the glass covers off the lights and put them away somewhere where they won't get broken.
- OK so you have now sorted out the 12 volt lighting in and around

the caravan, now how are we going to power it? Here are some battery options starting with the simplest system and working up from there. These are presented in point form only here and will be detailed in the next edition of "Caravan Talk" If you need to set up your rig for this winter trip please ring and discuss your requirements.

Options include any one or a combination of the following:

- Utilise the towing vehicles primary battery.
- Install an auxiliary battery in the car with a split charge circuit.
- Install an auxiliary battery in the caravan and charge through a battery charger.
- Install an auxiliary battery in the caravan and charge through a solar panel.

Hardings Lights Prices

8/16 watt 12 volt double switched florescent light	\$30
10 or 20 watt globes and holder to replace the 21 watt regular bayonet globe	\$20
10 watt surface mount reading lights	\$27.50
20 watt spotlights or ceiling lights	\$50
Versa lite	\$95
Cigarette socket adapter lead	\$25

Accessories from Hardings for your van

Vanguard Plus Caravan Polish cleans and protects	\$15.00
Secure Lock adapter to convert old style water tank fillers to lockable units	\$22.00
Water Tank drain Tees to allow easy emptying of your tank	\$6.50
"Stakka Jacks" free standing caravan supports are easier to use than wind down jacks	\$22.00 each
Water Tank Cleaning Powder to get the bugs out of your system	\$17.50
Suburban Gas Water Heater Anodes, protect your tank.	\$29.50