

## On the road again

Depending on who you ask, they're 'grey nomads' or 'sundowners'. But whatever their name, this group of baby boomers is changing what it means to be retired...and taking a whole industry along for the ride.

Remember when airfares were expensive and petrol was cheap? These days it seems you can book a one-way flight for about as much as it would take to fill the car. But many baby boomers are turning their backs on air travel, and taking the roads back on. At their own pace.

It's easy to see the appeal of driving around Australia. No check-ins, deadlines or taxi queues. Sleep in when you want to. Stay put if you find somewhere nice. In a country as vast and beautiful as Australia it's only natural to want to explore it at your own pace.

This is exactly what more and more retirees are doing. And the makers of campervans and motorhomes are falling over each other to capture the market. This is good news for buyers, who want creature comforts without a hefty price tag.

If you're thinking about buying a recreational vehicle (RV), there are a few things you'll need to factor in:

- **Cost** – Prices for RVs can vary enormously, from a basic \$20,000 'slide-on' (a detachable motorhome body that fits on a ute) to luxury bus conversions in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- **Petrol** – Fuel consumption could put a big dent in your budget. Bigger may not be better.
- **Fit-out** – You're going to be spending a lot of time in this vehicle; make sure you're comfortable with where everything is, and how it works.
- **Re-sale** – Get an idea of what you might be getting back one day.
- **Itinerary** – Your chosen destinations may dictate what amenities you need on board.
- **Try before you buy** – It's easy to rent many RVs, and a test run will help you find out if a particular model is right for you.
- **License** – Some larger vehicles may require Light Rigid (LR) license.

For further information the NRMA (motoring services) has a handy Motorhome beginners' guide. See their website at [www.mynrma.com.au/cc4\\_help\\_motor.asp](http://www.mynrma.com.au/cc4_help_motor.asp) or call **13 11 22**.