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André Lacroix | CEO of Intertek and author of Leadership with Soul

Today, I'm excited to share with you what inspired me to become a global CEO. Becoming an effective leader is a journey that requires continuous learning, growth and reflection. Staying curious and embracing new ideas is key to reinventing yourself every day and ta...

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I left my six-figure mining job and set off around Australia in a van with my wife and toddler. This is why it's the best thing we did - and how I made \$22,000 in a month on the road

- The Mumford family ventured around Australia for 16 months
- [Read more: I learnt how to drive so I could live and travel in a van](#)

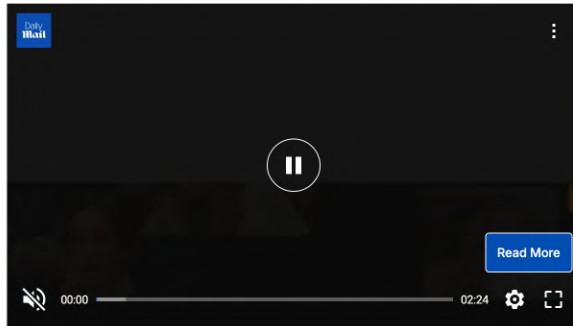
By **CARINA STATHIS FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA**
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A couple who grew sick of life in the suburbs have revealed why they decided to pack up their belongings and set off on a dream caravan journey across Australia - and believe all families should do the same.

Ryan Mumford, his wife Bec and their two-year-old son Riley took off in May 2023 to visit remote parts of the country in their 'home on wheels' - a truck with a caravan-inspired setup at the back.

The pair, 42 and 36, made the 'split decision' to go travelling at the perfect time as Ryan loathed his job in mining despite a lucrative salary.



'I hated my job. I came home from work out of the blue one day and said to Bec "Let's do this",' Ryan, 42, told FEMAIL.

Now, 16 months on, they've visited **South Australia, Queensland** and several areas in **Western Australia**. And while it's been one hell of a journey, it didn't come without its challenges.

The family were forced to totally transform their way of living and adapt to living in close quarters for hours on end, making a living on the road and entertaining a toddler full time.

While most who follow the 'van life' path sell their homes to fund the adventure, Ryan and Bec knew this wasn't the right choice for them immediately - especially in the current economic climate.

Instead, the couple rented out their home for extra income.



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Aussie couple Ryan and Bec Mumford put their belongings into storage, invested in a 'home on wheels' and travelled around the country with their toddler Riley for 16 months



On average the couple spent \$1500 weekly, with fuel being their biggest cost followed by groceries

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'We've met so many people doing the same thing we are who get three months in and hate it. They can't stand the small space and being with each other all the time, then they return home to nothing,' Ryan said.

'So selling your home without trying it out first is the worst thing you can do.'

The couple left home with \$80,000 in the bank to live off and by the end of the trip they'd spent \$100,000 - something they don't regret despite admitting it was more than they'd planned.

On average the couple spent \$1500 weekly, with fuel being their biggest cost followed by groceries.

While they had every intention to plan their spending, they stopped budgeting after the first month.

'It varied from week to week depending on where we were and how long we were there for,' Ryan said.



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The married couple, 42 and 36, made the 'split decision' to go travelling and at the time Ryan 'hated' his job in mining despite the massive salary

Along the way Ryan picked up farm work and in one month made an eye-watering \$22,000.

'I worked two jobs and could work 24 hours if I wanted to. You can make a good living and I believe you can earn \$100,000 in six months because there's so much to do - you just can't be picky with the job you get,' Ryan said.

The couple only planned to travel for 12 months but Ryan was made redundant at Christmas so they kept exploring for another four months.



The truck also towed a trailer with a buggy on it. Along the way Ryan picked up farm work and in one month made an eyewatering \$22,000



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Inside the tightly packed caravan had everything the family needed - bunk beds, a tiny kitchen, bathroom, fridge, microwave and Wi-Fi

Despite being tightly packed, the caravan had everything the family needed including beds, a tiny kitchen, a bathroom, a fridge, a microwave and Wi-Fi.

They quickly learned how to get along without getting on each other's nerves and surprisingly managed to get by without a single argument.

During the days the family would visit new beaches, fished and bonded with other families they met on the road.

The Isuzu truck was also powerful enough to pull a golf buggy on the back of a trailer to make it easier to explore new places at speed.

As for little Riley, the couple said he loves living on the road and 'adapts really well'.

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Now the family have returned home and are planning their next adventure - though this time they'll sell their house to fund the trip

Now the family have returned home and are planning their next adventure - though this time they'll sell their house to fund the trip.

'After three weeks I already started getting itchy feet,' Ryan said.

'Riley isn't used to having a backyard either - the world is normally his backyard. We can wait to get back out on the road again.'

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission found Aussies took more than \$5 million caravan, camping and glamping holidays last year spending \$14.3billion.

'This localised shift in travel has led to a 60 per cent spike in sales so far this quarter for portable generators, batteries and mini power stations,' said David Sedighi, Chief Operating Officer of Outbox.

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