

Reader's story



Caravan buyer beware!

My husband was searching Facebook and Gumtree to find a caravan. He found a real bargain, a "nice looking van" which directed him to email a gmail address printed over the images. Here are the emails he received until he felt "Linda" was not genuine and stopped contact.

Tuesday 8 February 2022 15:28 Kevin wrote:

Hi, I am very interested in purchasing your van to use as on-site accommodation in Cooroy so if this ad is genuine please contact me. I have cash to make the purchase. How and when can I come see it? Cheers Kevin

Wednesday 9 February 2022 8:09:21 RAAF Linda wrote:

Good morning Kevin,
First of all I want to thank you for your interest in my 2008 Golden Eagle Semi Off Road Caravan and apologise for my delay because I saw your email just a while back as I'm in military base training. Right now I can't call you, we are involved in a special training program here and I don't have access to my phone. We are allowed to check email a couple of times per day. I'm sorry we have to stick to email for now, I hope you understand. The only reason I want to sell it is that I have a deployment coming up and would prefer to have my mother who is taking care of my children to have the cash instead.

Well, let me jump right into it. I just got divorced and the caravan was awarded to me. I have a low price (\$9,500) because I want to sell it before 17 February ideally.

A few words about this 2008 Golden Eagle Semi Off Road Caravan. It will come with a Roadworthy Certificate and rego paid until 28 October 2022. Lots of extras including under-bed ducted heater, awning walls, 12v solar set up for free camping, caravan shower toilet and well maintained. If you decide to buy it you'll receive all the papers, owner manual, keys and a buy-sell contract already signed by me.

Let me know if you have any questions and also what is your location cuz I paid to promote my ad on Facebook Australia-wide since it can be delivered if needed!

Warmest regards, Royal Australian AirForce Linda, RAAF Base Edinburgh, Edinburgh Rd, Edinburgh SA 5111

Wednesday 9 February 2022 13:33 Kevin wrote:

Okay so how do we arrange to see it? If we want it we will pay for it after inspecting and remove it then and there. We will pay for it by direct bank transfer only, that way you are secure as well as us. Cheers Kevin

Wednesday 9 February 2022 1:50:00 PM RAAF Linda wrote:

Hello again,

As I told you in my first email, I'm in the AirForce with my medical team and right now I am on a military base. The caravan is stored at my mother's house in Alice Springs NT!

I am a business seller on eBay and I have a free delivery voucher that works with eBay so before leaving I prearranged the deal with them. I chose to hire eBay to take care of the whole selling process as I cannot leave the military base in the context of Covid. The delivery process will be managed by eBay also.

I think I can have it there at your home address within 1-2 working days. You will have 5 days to test and inspect the caravan before making any purchase. During that 5 days testing period I will not be getting any money.

Only when you confirm to eBay that you are satisfied with the caravan and want to keep it,



they will release the funds to me. Otherwise they will refund you the full amount of money without any question and you can ship the caravan back at my expense.

To see the caravan easier in these times I've made a quick YouTube video: www.youtube.be/r05XvX3M0TQ. It's important that you watch the video tour before you buy as this is a great tool if you are unable to inspect yourself and is the main part of my description.

I need to know if you are interested so I can list it on eBay with the buy it now option. I will provide you with the link to my eBay auction page in my reply so you can purchase it from the eBay website directly.

Warmest regards, Royal Australian AirForce Linda, RAAF Base Edinburgh, Edinburgh Rd, Edinburgh SA 5111

In hindsight throughout the correspondence there were so many 'red flags' – overseas deployment at a secret military base, focus on how to pay, trying to make him feel safe by going through eBay, a rushed sale, a free 5 day testing period, building a connection because she also has been scammed, sympathy connection because of her divorce, mother looking after her children, lots of unnecessary information about her religion and high principles, and that she can deliver it to us (in Cooroy) from Alice Springs in 1-2 days (3,000km).

We felt it was a scam and are now looking at other vans we can see. The video link from "Linda" seemed to be copied from a 2018 YouTube video by a company called Watson's Caravans Port Macquarie.

LOOKING AHEAD

Please check the websites for Covid entry requirements and late changes.

MAY 2022

- 14-15 As You Like It**, Noosa Botanic Gardens
- 21-22 Cooroy**, www.little-seed.com.au
- 15 Pacific Chamber Players**, Cooroy Memorial Hall, www.pacificchamberplayers.com
- 19-28 One Act Play Festival**, Noosaville, www.noosaartstheatre.org.au
- 19 Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**, Eumundi, 0419 686 772
- 21 Annual Locals' Music Night**, Belli Community Hall, www.trybookings.com/BYTLM
- 22 The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride**, Sunshine Coast, www.gentlemansride.com
- 26 Eumundi Chamber of Commerce AGM**, The Pavilion Eumundi, www.eumundichamber.com.au
- 26 Eumundi Voice Issue 45**
- 27-28 In Paradisum – Noosa Chorale**, The J Noosa, www.noosachorale.org.au
- 29 Park Sounds**, Dick Caplick Park, Eumundi, www.imperialhoteleumundi.com.au

JUNE 2022

- 1-30 World Environment Day Festival**, Sunshine Coast, www.wed.org.au
- 2 Open Mic Night for 7-17 year olds**, Eumundi, www.imperialhoteleumundi.com.au
- 5 Sunny Coast Herb Festival**, Coolool, www.trybooking.com/events/landing/875350

WE ARE BACK!

Noosa Eumundi Auto Wreckers

Wanted: F1 Trucks and other cars
Ring for parts requirements
Open Mon - Fri, 9am-1pm

Call Ivan
0418 723 080

17 Whalley Creek Close
Burnside Q 4560

