

time to

# roam

TRAVEL | CARAVANS | MOTORHOMES | CAMPERS



**TOP PET  
FRIENDLY  
PARKS**



**Reinventing  
the family  
caravan**



ISSUE 27 2017  
TIMETOROAM.COM.AU

ISSN 2203-8027



9 772203 802002

RRP \$6.95



**Australia's  
best caravan  
makeovers**

# *gardening guru* **COSTA GEORGIADIS**

 BY KIMBERLEY NICOLL

For someone who grew up in the big smoke and didn't camp much as a kid, Costa Georgiadis has an incredible passion for the great outdoors. The larger than life personality fronting ABC TV's Gardening Australia program for the past five years is definitely someone you'd describe as "down-to-earth".

The professional landscape architect loves a good holiday, connecting with the environment and the people he shares it with. "That's what life's about," he says.

*Costa on a camping trip in the Blue Mountains*

### Where did you go on your family holidays as a child?

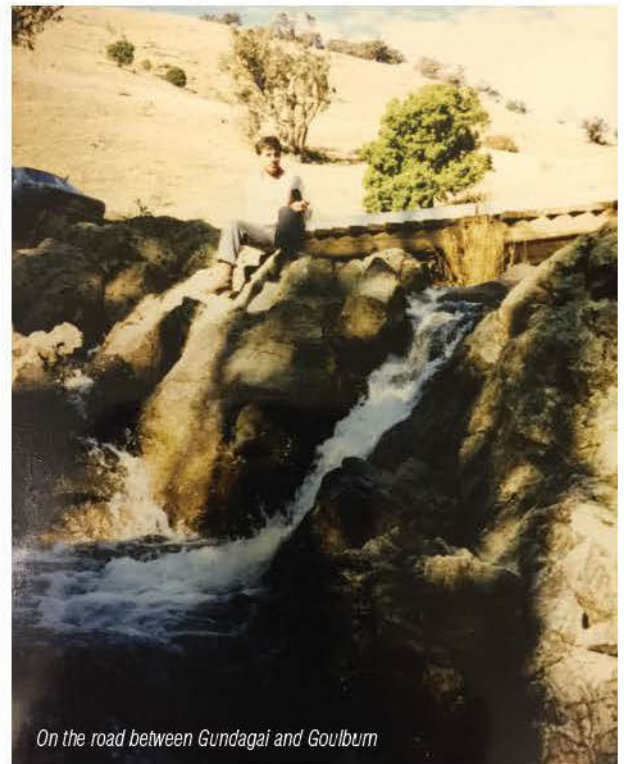
One of our first regular destinations was Nelson Bay, NSW. It was fantastic back then in the late 1970s as it was all undeveloped. Literally, there was just one motel, which is where we'd stay every school holidays. My family also went up every May without fail to Broadbeach in Queensland. I remember those days as clearly as the first time we went, we met two families. We all ended up going up there together every other year. We had picnics in the Cascade Gardens, played mini golf and finished our days with sunset barbeques. Those friendships are still so special to this day. They ring dad every Wednesday night without fail. My niece recently became a paramedic and moved to the Murray River. On our way to visit her, we dropped by and visited one of the families who live in Shepparton. That's a family friendship of 40 plus years, those waters run deep. I was very moved by that visit.

### Did you ever camp or caravan?

Yeah! I'm certainly a lover of camping and used to go while on breaks from studying at university. We'd go down to the Snowy Mountains and stay at Blowering Dam as one of my friends have family nearby at Tumut. That was always a lot of fun. I also love taking people who visit from overseas down the South Coast to camp at Pebbly Beach, which has always been wonderful. Still now I even like to take a swag and go solo out to the Alice.

### What's your favourite place to visit?

There's a few. I love Broome. The coastal landscape there is just amazing. I've spent some time in the Daintree in a little community called Wudjil and I really enjoy the northern rivers region of NSW. There are some stunning landscapes out the back of Lismore and Murwillumbah. The hinterland there is a favourite of mine. I am really privileged to be able to travel the country as part of my job. Everywhere in Australia has something special about it really. I always come away with an experience that I treasure.



*On the road between Gundagai and Goulburn*



*Skiing in Victorian Alps*



*Young Costa in pool*





Camping in his first car, a Gemini TE 5 speed wagon



At the beach at Nelson Bay, NSW



Horse riding in Shepparton, VIC



### Do you have anywhere you're keen to see?

I really do enjoy the dry region between Broken Hill and Adelaide. It's beautiful to be in the outback and appreciate the surroundings there. The best time is after 3pm until sunset. It's when all the birds and animals come to life. I really want to spend more time out there, appreciating the red gums and the riverside landscapes.

### Do you have any tips for other people planning a long trip?

I used to pick up my godchildren every school holidays from Melbourne, take them to Sydney and then drive them back. A life saver is a great esky on the passenger seat in arms reach. I'd have a mixture of peanut butter and vegemite sandwiches, oranges, apples, bananas, drinks, water and juice. That way if they'd say they were thirsty, I could go boom. "I don't want that", then boom, boom, boom. It optimises your travel time. I also pick places to stop at that are off the highway. It's great being able to check out local botanic gardens and picnic spots. That way your driving becomes an experience.

### What is your ideal landscape to vacation to?

Definitely something elevated with views. Somewhere I could view the coast and have a river down to the ocean and still do things like canoeing. I need to merge all of those things together but I love that you can't. Wherever I go now I can appreciate, compare, and contrast where I move through. I get to enjoy the landscape for its diversity and differences. ♠



On the horse again, in the days before he had facial hair.

