

# The Wanderer

[www.cmca.net.au](http://www.cmca.net.au)

JULY 2012 • Volume 27 No 7

## IN THIS ISSUE:

End of the Road

Winton to Bouli

Changing the Motorhome

Robe to Marion Bay

UFOs in the Outback



Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. PP255003101516  
ABN 16 095 568 157  
ISSN 1034 - 134X

# Tyres & Wheel Alignment

## Good advice from Autosmith

**BEFORE** heading out onto the open road it is important to make sure that you are getting into a vehicle that is mechanically sound. Regular servicing, tyre checks and wheel alignments are vital not only for the life of the vehicle but also for the safety of you, your passengers and fellow motorists, and let's face it most motorhomes are not just managing a quick trip to the corner store, they are covering thousands of kilometres and you will want to go the distance with peace of mind. Peter Bevitt from Autosmith International on the Gold Coast has been in the business for the past 30 years and offers these tips for keeping your lifestyle investment in great shape.

Firstly make sure that the company performing repairs or servicing has the specific know how and experience when it comes to motorhomes.

Always refer to the vehicle owner's manual for recorded service intervals but generally most modern petrol powered vehicles should be serviced every 10000km. For diesel vehicles servicing should be every 5000 – 10000km. In harsher conditions such as travelling on dusty roads or the heat of the summer will put further pressure on service parts including air conditioning components.

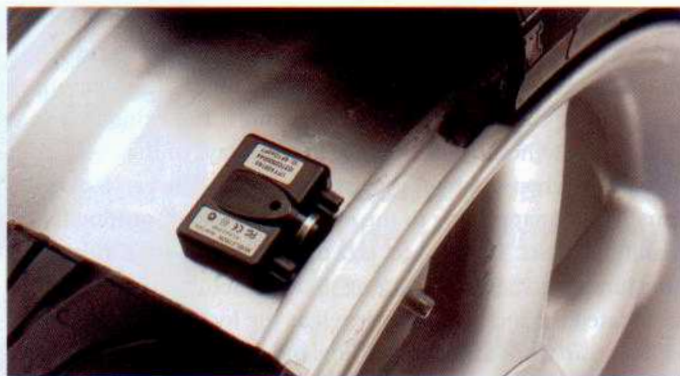
Make sure you give your vehicle a good once over before departing. Paying special attention to the tyres, look for funny wear patterns that could indicate wheel alignment issues such as worn tie rod ends, ball joints, king pin bushes or worn shock absorbers. Also make sure you check fluid levels, the engine compartment for loose belts or wires, check all lights are in working order and make sure there is no fluid on the ground under the vehicle other than condensed water from the air conditioner. Sometimes funny pungent smells indicate radiator coolant leaks.

Check all LPG connections and wiring ensuring there is no gas smell present.

Check the condition of wiper blades and windscreen washers, ensuring they are replaced regularly and use a good quality windscreen additive to help clean those troublesome bugs from the windscreen.

Once you start to notice a problem even if it seems to be a minor one, try to get it checked out straight away to avoid the problem getting worse.

For more information on motorhomes, campervans and fifth wheelers visit [www.autosmith.com.au](http://www.autosmith.com.au) or give Peter, Vicki and the team a call at Autosmith International on 07 5559 1855.



## Monitor tyres from the dash

**SOONER** or later as you travel this vast country you will experience the cost and inconvenience of having a flat tyre.

It's ironic that we have gauges on the dash to check oil pressure, engine temperature, volts or amp output. However, there is nothing to inform you of issues with tyres. Unfortunately, without the tyres being right you go nowhere.

Tyres are expensive and the damage that can be caused by having a flat tyre on vehicles can also be a costly reminder that the expense doesn't stop at the tyre.

It's a fact that most tyres are destroyed by running underinflated for too long. The tyre starts to delaminate and that's when the trouble starts and the life of the tyre is shortened. Leave the tyre underinflated for too long and you won't need a tyre monitor to tell you that you have a problem.

The SensaTyre system sold and distributed by Hannibal Safari Equipment is a comprehensive and cost effective kit that will offer real time monitoring of all tyres on the road including spares. The system can deal with low and high pressure tyre applications. This means that motorhomes towing trailers or vehicles on A-frames can be monitored as well.

The pressures and temperatures of all tyres being monitored are visible on the one screen. The receiver on the dash will sound an alarm when there is a problem. This means that depending on the rate of deflation you may be able to choose between a roadside repair or, if you are in luck, being able to limp to the next town to have the tyre dealt with.

Another good reason for tyre monitoring is if you understand your tyre pressures and temperatures you will also be in a position to run pressures to ensure maximum longevity for the life of the tyre. This could mean savings on your overall vehicle costs and fuel efficiency.

SensaTyre wireless tyre monitors are available from Hannibal Safari Equipment and their dealers around the country. For more information phone 1300 369 270 or look them up on the web: [www.hannibalsafari.com.au](http://www.hannibalsafari.com.au)

