

BACKROADS



**ABC
COMMERCIAL**
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

HITTING THE ROAD TO DISCOVER SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST REMARKABLE AND INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

Back Roads is a heart-warming and insightful lifestyle series that invites audiences on a journey through the lesser-known corners of regional and remote Australia, shining a light on the people, landscapes, and communities that make up the fabric of this big country.

Each episode centres around a different town or district, exploring what makes that place unique. Through intimate storytelling, *Back Roads* meets a diverse range of Australians — farmers, artists, Indigenous elders, local heroes, and everyday people who embody resilience, resourcefulness, and an unbreakable community spirit.

Whether it's a tiny outback settlement, a coastal fishing town, or a remote desert community, the series captures the individual soul of each location with empathy and humour.

Far more than just a travel show, *Back Roads* is a celebration of rural life and a powerful reminder of the strength, optimism, and innovation that exist far from the city lights.

The series doesn't shy away from challenges — drought, economic hardship, bushfires, and isolation — but it also highlights the joy, creativity, and deep connections that help communities endure and thrive.

Since its debut in 2015, *Back Roads* has become a beloved part of the ABC network's programming, resonating with audiences across generations. It has sparked greater interest in domestic travel and a renewed appreciation for the spirit of regional Australia. Uplifting, thought-provoking, and richly human, *Back Roads* is a tribute to the strength and diversity of Australia's heartland.



SEASON 11: 24 X 30'
AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

WHY AUDIENCES LOVE IT

Back Roads has garnered widespread acclaim and affection from audiences across Australia and beyond, appreciated for its genuine, heartfelt portrayal of rural life, which contrasts sharply with the often city-focused narratives in mainstream media.

Hosts Heather Ewart and Lisa Millar bring warmth and empathy, teasing out authentic, relatable stories that resonate deeply. The show's ability to highlight both the struggles and triumphs of small communities fosters a strong emotional connection, making audiences feel part of these remote places.

Fans often express how *Back Roads* inspires a renewed appreciation for regional Australia, sparking curiosity and a desire to explore the country's hidden gems. Social media and viewer feedback consistently celebrate the series for its uplifting tone, honesty, and celebration of community spirit, securing its place as a beloved and trusted program in Australian television.

With high production values and exceptional cinematography, *Back Roads* is a warm and engaging travelogue of rural Australia.

'Highlights Australia's trademark grit, generosity and humour'
— TV Guide



UNIVERSAL STORIES WITH GLOBAL APPEAL

Audiences outside Australia connect with *Back Roads* because its themes are universal – community, resilience, identity, and connection to place resonate across cultures and borders.

The show offers a rare, intimate glimpse into rural life, highlighting the strength and spirit of small communities facing challenges that many people worldwide can relate to, such as economic hardship, environmental struggles, and the quest to preserve heritage and culture.

The host's warm storytelling invites viewers into authentic human experiences, making the stories feel personal and relatable regardless of where audiences are watching.

The breathtaking Australian landscapes provide a fresh, visually captivating backdrop that sparks curiosity and a sense of adventure.

At its core, *Back Roads* celebrates human endurance, hope, and the power of community – universal values that transcend geography. This makes it compelling viewing for anyone interested in stories about real people overcoming adversity and finding meaning in their connection to home, no matter where that home might be.



Logie Awards 2025:
Nomination Most Popular
Personality on Australian TV
(Lisa Millar)

Logie Awards 2023:
Nomination Most Popular
Lifestyle Program

AACTA Awards 2022:
Nomination Best Factual
Entertainment Program

EPISODE SYNOPSES

Episode 1

Andamooka and Roxby Downs · South Australia

Heather Ewart heads to the South Australian outback to check out two mining towns that are chalk and cheese – Roxby Downs and its unruly cousin, Andamooka.

Episode 2

Camperdown · Victoria

Camperdown in Southwest Victoria is a town nestled between dormant volcanoes and majestic crater lakes. Guest presenter Kerry Staight discovers a community that embraces its Scottish heritage, whilst also supporting locals going their own way.

Episode 3

Theodore · Queensland

Guest presenter Anna Daniels heads to the central Queensland town of Theodore for its 100th birthday. She finds a town honouring its past, but also safeguarding its future, proving anything is possible in the bush.

Episode 4

Kandos · New South Wales

Kandos in New South Wales is a town famous for making cement, and Heather Ewart finds an unlikely arts festival is reshaping the community.

Episode 5

Outback Way Part 1 · Northern Territory

In the first of a two-part special, *Back Roads* takes a trip on The Outback Way, also known as Australia's longest shortcut, where Lisa Millar finds remote communities reaching out to the world in surprising ways.

Episode 6

Outback Way Part 2 · Northern Territory

Back Roads continues its epic trip on The Outback Way. Lisa Millar soaks up spectacular natural wonders and meets people making a big difference educating kids, before hitching a ride with a couple of 'Warrior Princesses'.



EPISODE SYNOPSIS

Episode 7

Kangaroo Island · South Australia

Back Roads goes in search of all creatures great and small on Kangaroo Island, off the coast of South Australia. Guest Presenter Paul West checks in to see how the island is faring after the devastating Black Summer fires of 2020.

Episode 8

Great Keppel Island · Queensland

Great Keppel Island was once a paradise for partygoers. Heather Ewart finds an idyllic island with a tumultuous past and a community trying to carve out a more sustainable way forward.

Episode 9

Hilltops Region · New South Wales

Presenter Lisa Millar heads to the Hilltops region of New South Wales to attend The Running of the Sheep – the headline event at the annual Boorowa Irish Wool Festival. She is joined by thousands of excited spectators for the unique event.

Episode 10

Wheelbarrow Way · Queensland

This episode follows Wheelbarrow Way from Mareeba to Chillagoe in Far North Queensland, where hometown boy and guest presenter Joe O'Brien meets teams competing in the Great Wheelbarrow Race.

Episode 11

Bibbulmun Track · Western Australia

Back Roads explores Western Australia's beloved Bibbulmun Track – a 1,000 kilometre walk through mighty forests and a rugged coastline, starting on the outskirts of Perth. Guest Presenter Rae Johnston meets people transformed by the experience.

Episode 12

Moree · New South Wales

Back Roads is off to a wedding as Heather Ewart discovers the world of made-to-measure couture dresses around Moree in outback New South Wales. From wedding dress designers to Aboriginal designs destined for the catwalks of New York, Moree's dressmakers are a cut above the rest.



EPISODE SYNOPSSES

Episode 13

North East · Tasmania

Heather Ewart is almost blown away by the 'Roaring Forties' winds when she visits the North East of Tasmania - an area rich in history, culture and crayfish!

Episode 14

Murchison · Victoria

After ten fun-filled years of hitting the *Back Roads*, Heather Ewart is saying goodbye. In her final episode, Heather returns to her hometown and relives some of the unforgettable moments from her time on the road.

Episode 15

Snowy River · New South Wales

Lisa Millar straps herself in for an adventure exploring the legendary Snowy River, following it from the slopes of Mt Kosciuszko in New South Wales right down south to Marlo, where the river empties out into the Bass Strait.

Episode 16

Mataranka in the Top End · Northern Territory

Kristy O'Brien dives into the nostalgia and untold stories of the Never Never – exploring the town of Mataranka in the Top End, where the 1908 classic novel *We of the Never Never* was set.

Episode 17

Forrest · Victoria

Guest presenter Paul West ditches his car and jumps on his bicycle to explore the former logging town of Forrest in Victoria's picturesque Otway Ranges.

Episode 18

Harvey · Western Australia

Lisa Millar visits the small town of Harvey in Western Australia, where waves of migrants built a thriving produce industry and a community that is in perfect harmony.



EPISODE SYNOPSIS

Episode 19

Van Life Part 1 · Far North Queensland

From confronting a major life trauma to escaping the housing crisis, more Aussies than ever are packing up and hitting the road. Guest presenter Myf Warhurst hits the bitumen in Far North Queensland to meet some of the people who've chosen van life.

Episode 20

Van Life Part 2 · New South Wales & Western Australia

Guest presenter Myf Warhurst continues her van life odyssey, meeting a surfing legend who was there when it all started. She also meets a group of women are embracing the freedom, independence and all that that van life can offer.

Episode 21

Gippsland Lakes · Victoria

Lisa Millar is on an odyssey to discover the secrets Australia's largest inland waterway. Home to over 300 native wildlife species, including the rare and endangered Burrumarra dolphin, it's here she discovers a community passionately working to preserve the Lakes for future generations.

Episode 22

Tambo · Queensland

Back Roads heads to Tambo, an outback town famous for teddies and chicken racing. Guest presenter, Tom Forrest finds a community that's not afraid to take risks to keep this historic town thriving.

Episode 23

Lucindale · South Australia

Kristy O'Brien ventures to the tiny South Australian town of Lucindale, discovering a small community playing a big role in keeping the most colourful bush traditions alive – from the adrenaline-pumping ute 'circle work' at the Bachelor & Spinster Ball, to a massive agricultural trade show.

Episode 24

Northern Region · Tasmania

Lisa Millar ventures to one of Tasmania's oldest and most celebrated woodchopping carnivals, Henley-on-Mersey. It's here she learns of how generations of axemen and women are keeping this iconic Aussie sport alive.

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