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The travelling foursome (from left) Mary and Gary Ayres and David and Merrilyn Peck enjoy the quick set-up of the Adria Adiva 532 UP caravans, leaving them plenty of time to relax.

## Twin Adria caravans make light work of the nomad trail

Two Perth couples have embarked on a year-long road trip in a matching pair of lightweight Adria caravans and Nissan X-Trail tow-vehicles.

David and Merrilyn Peck and Gary and Mary Ayres have been good friends for over 20 years, and in April embarked on a long-awaited journey around Australia. Gary and Mary already owned their automatic Nissan X-Trail, a compact 4WD, which was a deciding factor in their choice of Adria caravan.

"We looked at so many different brands, but no one else could offer a full-sized caravan at the lighter weight we required," Gary said.

"Fuel economy was important; as we would be doing so

many miles we did not want to over-spend in that area of our budget.

"Mary and I were delighted when we found the Adria Adiva 532 UP - we were impressed with the European quality, light weight, practical layout and competitive price."

David and Merrilyn thought it was the ideal set-up too and ordered exactly the same combination, except their Nissan has a manual transmission. David has kept careful fuel consumption figures which he regularly posts on a website.

The manual Nissan has averaged 8.11 kilometres per litre (over 8111 kilometres from Perth to Darwin) with a fully laden Adria caravan in tow.

"The ladies needed a full stove and oven set-up for cooking and wanted a toilet and shower in the caravan," Gary said.

"We needed to have a proper door between the bedroom and living area so we could have an uninterrupted rest during the day with the blinds down, if needed.

"Of course, living in a caravan is quite challenging after coming from a large home. However, we are quite comfortable and enjoying the experience much more than many around us."

Gary and Mary appreciate Adria's superior insulation, which is part of the unique wall construction, and keeps them comfortable in all conditions.

"We all love being so self-contained, and showering in the caravan on the side of the road is an unbelievable experience," Gary said.

"The Adrias are a dream to tow, and because they are so light, we can park them pretty roughly and manoeuvre them into position by hand."

He says there is a lot of interest in the double set-up, mostly because people can't believe that such small 4WD vehicles can tow large caravans.

The foursome have a website dedicated to their trip - <http://user.digisurf.com.au/garyayres/GaryAyres.htm> - featuring a log of their travels and helpful information on what has and hasn't worked for them.