

SHARK BAY CARAVAN PARK IN DENHAM DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN, 25 MARCH 2020

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The Western Australian landscapes that I've been exploring for the past three years is now locked down. Travel between regions is restricted and from April 6 the state border was closed. I arrived in Perth in mid March. I had set up a number of jobs in towns along the Coral Coast and my plan was to slowly work my way up to Karratha. With the threat of internal borders being raised in the state my slow journey turned into a mad dash from Perth to find myself a caravan park at Karratha to base myself and start working while I could.

My first stop was Denham where I was welcomed at the Shark Bay Caravan Park. I had made plans to work with some indigenous fishermen, the Denham Primary School and the Shark Bay Hospital. However, when I arrived in town I found that a lot of the residents who were extremely welcoming on my last visit were now untrusting of everyone who wasn't a local.

Frustrated after being able to work only documenting some of the effects of COVID-19 on Denham, I drove on the Karratha.

IMAGE NO.	COMMENTS
BA2840/1703	Stacy Reynolds standing behind a physical barrier that she made in the doorway of the office at the Shark Bay Caravan Park. On the table she had a can of Glen 20 disinfectant, hand wipes and a card warning against the spreading of the coronavirus. Personally I don't think this set up would prevent Stacey from contracting the virus from one of her clients - she needed to be wearing hand gloves and a facemask. But I guess if this set up made her feel a little bit safer as she went about her work that's what mattered.
BA2840/1704	Stacy Reynolds standing out the front of her beloved Shark Bay Caravan reception house in Denham. Stacy told me that as a small business owner she would be able to navigate her way through six months of the coronavirus crisis without much of an income but after that it would be all unknown
BA2840/1705	2020 was going to be the year that Stacy and Michael Reynolds finally began to make headway with their Caravan Park In Denham, but now the coronavirus has arrived in Western Australia and put an end to that dream. Five years ago Stacy and Michael sold everything up down south at Waroona and moved up to Denham

	<p>to live their dream of buying a Caravan Park and working for themselves. After a rough 2019 everything was looking great for 2020, Michael had begun putting in two new Caravan sites with en suites and the park had a steady flow of tourist coming to stay. Over the last few weeks all of that has changed, the tourist have now vanished because they are scared they might get trapped in Denham with the new restrictions on movement around the state and the Shark Bay Caravan Park is almost empty. Stacy told me that they think they can stay afloat for about 6 months but after that it's all unknown.</p>
BA2840/1706	<p>Mick and Stacy Reynolds are small business owners (the Shark Bay Caravan Park) in an isolated community who are feeling the full force of the coronavirus crisis economically. Like a lot of small businesses they depend on tourism for their income. Mick said "Last week was one of the most challenging we have ever experienced as accommodation providers, the confusion that has ensued through State Government issuing policy on the run without considering the social and practical implications has led to thousands of people with no fixed abode being stranded as Caravan Parks like ours all over W.A. are closing. It's really stressful for everyone right now."</p>