



The name Lasseter is a well known one in Central Australia. Robert Lasseter, called Bob by those who know him, is a classic Australian figure. He is the son of Lewis Harold Bell Lasseter, the man after whom Lasseter Highway, Lasseter's Cave and Lasseters Hotel Casino are named. Lewis Harold Bell Lasseter was an explorer who died in the outback in 1931 while looking for a gold reef he claimed he had found in 1897. The reef has never been found, which, according to Bob, is because he has been unable to get a prospecting licence for large areas of land near the NT/WA border where the reef is claimed to lie. Like his father, Bob is an adventurer, explorer, engineer, designer and family man. His wife of 64 years, Elsie, says his life has been a good one. Bob grew up in Ramsgate, an outer suburb of Sydney, and secured an apprenticeship at the age of 18 as a fitter and turner, or metal worker, for Australian Electrical Industries. Around this time he met Elsie. They married and had five children — four daughters and a son. After his apprenticeship, Bob went on to become a tool maker, then fulfilling the wishes of his late father, a design engineer. Bob and Elsie started a business called Superior Engineer Design. Elsie did all the paperwork, and Bob the plans and design. In 1981 the business was burnt down in a large fire, and it never fully recovered, said Elsie. Bob, in Alice Springs this week to work with adventurer Dick Smith on a film about Lasseter's reef, will celebrate his 87th birthday on September 27, the day before his late father's birthday.

**Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY**

**Words: SALLY BROOKS**

## Demand much more

There are constant demands to fix all the problems and issues in

remote and not so remote communities.

How much does the community itself do to repair and maintain its community?

Do they have working bees and clean up the community and the school and perhaps paint and repair items at the school?

How many home vegetable gardens are there in communities or schools?

Take a drive along the Stuart Highway and the potential for work in the roadhouses is there, or in towns like Ti Tree or Tennant Creek, but they are so uninviting because the people do not care. The

jobs are done by backpackers because they work and turn up.

It is time for some leaders to have a look inward and stop asking for everything, and demand more from their communities.

**Stuart Mildura**

## Indicate at the right time

Re Red (*Centralian Advocate*, August 30). Immediately before leaving a roundabout

you must signal with your left indicator unless it is impracticable to do so. What truly frustrates road users about roundabouts: People not indicating at all when they are turning left or right at a roundabout — dangerous for pedestrians and other drivers. People

indicating right and then left when they are just going straight ahead — this might have been a rule some years ago but times have changed. Bring back the how-to-drive-through-a-roundabout television ad!

**Disgruntled driver Alice Springs**

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