

The defendant Wayne Gregory Pattison has pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property. Between 23 October 2017 and 25 October 2017, he received and had in his possession, a Jayco Caravan knowing it was stolen property.

In the months leading up to this crime, the defendant's residential property at Tea Tree was seized by the Commonwealth Bank and he was evicted. He had moved in with a friend at Tea Tree. He was informed he had to remove himself and his belongings by Sunday 22 October 2017. As a result, he was then homeless.

On 22 October Mr and Ms Bevan had their 1997 Jayco caravan parked at the front of their property at Campania. It was valued at approximately \$20,000. It was fitted with a large silver checker plate box on the rear which contained approximately \$5,000 worth of camping equipment and other items. During that night, the caravan was stolen. The next day it was reported stolen to police.

On 25 October, the caravan was located at Lake Dulverton in Oatlands. It was hitched to the defendant's utility. The registration plates had been removed from the caravan, as had the silver checker plate box. The defendant told police he had purchased the caravan for \$5,000 on 23 October and had paid in cash. On 26 October, the police located the defendant at Tea Tree and found the silver checker plate box in the rear of his ute.

The defendant participated in a police interview and told police he had been looking for a caravan and someone had approached him and asked whether he was looking for one. He refused to name the person who he claimed to have purchased the caravan from.

The defendant has been remanded in custody since 7 December and spent an additional four days in custody. He is 64 years of age. He has relevant convictions and court sanctions. He had committed an offence of aggravated burglary and stealing in August 2015 and on 24 July 2018, he received a suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment on condition he not reoffend for two years. I note there have been no further offences since then. At the time he committed this crime of receiving he was subject to an undertaking that he not commit any offence of dishonesty for two years, imposed in the magistrates' court in 2016 for an offence of stealing.

He has had fared poorly financially. He inherited a cattle farm which had to be sold for the purpose of a matrimonial division. He then purchased his property at Tea Tree and financed his second wife's law firm and lost a significant amount of money when that closed. He tried to sell his property at Tea Tree and the bank foreclosed. After moving out of his friend's property, he lived in his car and after an insurance payout he bought some land at Miena where he is now living in a caravan. I note that he has a major depressive illness.

The defendant's criminal conduct was short lived. He had possession of the caravan for some two days before it was seized by police. That was now three years ago and there has been no further offending. He has demonstrated compliance with a wholly suspended sentence which has been in place in the interim. I took the view that given that this was not an isolated incident of dishonesty, that an effective period of imprisonment was needed. I regard the time he has spent in custody as sufficient. I record a conviction and I impose six months' imprisonment backdated to 3 December, the balance from today suspended on condition he not commit an offence punishable by imprisonment for two years.