

NEURAL PATH: Scientists Fran Rosamond and Mike Fellows are touring Australia in their Hi-Ace.

— Pictures by Brock Perks

## Scientists hit the information super highway

A PAIR of computer scientists have ditched their desks, labs and white coats to take their work as researchers on tour.

Six years ago, Professor Mike Fellows and Dr Fran Rosamond hit the road in a 1987 Hi-Ace pop-top campervan, travelling the

country as they undertook valuable research for the University of Newcastle. The husband-and-wife team use maths to solve problems, such as how to get 40 billion photos onto Facebook.

Their research might also be able to explain how Google

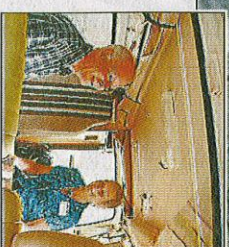
can give the top 10 responses out of the thousands possible for every query.

"We visit a lot of schools and universities talking about maths and computer science," Dr Rosamond said.

The travelling duo have had stints overseas in Germany,

Norway and France—all while staying in touch online with fellow researchers at Newcastle University.

But for now, the professors, who call themselves "maths gypsies", are back in Newcastle, and yesterday shared their knowledge with



more than 40 scientists and students from across the world at a university workshop.

— Melissa Lyons