

# The Hamer Newsletter



## 22 July 2008

Hello to One and All,

Our last letter ended in May at Crows Nest, with the intention of starting to head north to the warm weather. Well, Frans decided to change our plans as he wanted to attend a CMCA meeting at Maleny – so that's where we are now until about 19<sup>th</sup>, then we really must start northwards as we are due in Cairns on 30<sup>th</sup> July. So, here is the diary from the last few weeks.....

### Sunday 25 May

We left Crows Nest and travelled to friends in Capalaba, staying for a few days parked in the front garden. What a delightful place that was, with our own "ensuite" and delicious cappuccinos each morning!

### Wednesday 28 May

Off to Scarborough to visit more friends, and go to the photographic exhibition, and the Caravan and Motorhome show. All very interesting but I think we are all "showed out" now and probably won't go to any more until we win the lotto and start looking for our next luxury mobile home.

### Saturday 7 June

To Tin Can Bay, visiting friends and enjoying a lazy week. This is still a lovely area and we enjoy spending time here.

### Saturday 14 June



To Kilkivan Bush Camp inland from Gympie for a few days, which turned into 9 days as we stayed on for a CMCA gathering there. It is a beautiful spot, lots of birds and a couple of donkeys who love to be fed each day with the fruit scraps. Each night we enjoyed a roaring camp fire with a great group of people, including a couple of guitar strummer/singers. It was cold at night, and the woollies came in handy.



### Monday 23 June

To Kingaroy showgrounds overnight with another couple in a 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler who we met at Kilkivan. That was a very cold night with a minimum of minus 2.5 degrees.

### Tuesday 24 June

To a little spot on the map called Benarkin. Frans & Geoff went off in Fang to check out the state forest and see if we could get our big rigs in without too much difficulty. On the way back they had a puncture in one of Fang's tyres – the first one we have experienced. That held us up for the night, but early next morning Frans took Fang into Blackbutt to have the tyre changed, and then we were off to Benarkin





State Forest on a very narrow dirt road. We were lucky that we were the only campers there at Emu Creek campground and we enjoyed 2 beautiful nights of very cold weather with a great camp fire and camp oven meals.

**Friday 27 June**

School holidays were starting so we left Emu Creek early to make sure we were out

before the hordes started coming in – the road was too narrow to be able to pass anything bigger than a bike! We headed off to Kilcoy showgrounds for 2 nights, and went to the markets on Saturday morning. It was very foggy until late morning.



**Sunday 29 June**

To Somerset Dam campground and even though it was school holidays, we almost had the place to ourselves. Again, we had foggy mornings and cold nights and camp oven cooking around the fire.



**Tuesday 1 July**



Time to go our separate ways, and we headed back to Crows Nest to wait out the school holidays. Frans cut up more trees for firewood and did some more slashing of paddocks, and we spent many evening hours inside the warm house playing board games with Benny & Peter – it was very cool outside and much more pleasant being in the house, although we did run our generator for a couple of hours to warm up

Stopalot before going to bed.

We also practised our camp oven cooking in the firepot and had great success with a roast chook, our first damper, and casseroles.

**Monday 14 July**

To Maleny to attend the CMCA meeting, staying at the showgrounds with a



big group of motorhomers. We had a great week here, cold nights around the camp fires and a lot of fun with a bunch of really friendly people. Frans made the momentous decision to stand for election as a Director at the CMCA elections coming up in October, and campaigning started there and then with another two guys who also decided to put their hands up. There are 7 candidates for 3 positions, so who knows what will eventuate.

**Sunday 20 July**

Time to leave, so we left Maleny and overnighed at Ceratodus Park north of Munduberra in a rest area. It was pretty good apart from the trucks which pulled in at around 1 am, then left again at about 5 am.



**Monday 21 July**

The day started out OK with an early departure, but then the rain set in and we decided to just keep driving and get as far as we could – ended up at another overnight rest stop at Clairview north of St Lawrence. It is a

good spot too, apart from the railway line on which freight trains rumble all through the night! It rained all night and was very windy in the morning.

### **Tuesday 22 July**

Another wet and miserable day, so another early start and try to escape the weather. We stopped in at Mackay and bought a Van Sat TV satellite dish, so we can get reception anywhere in Australia. That will stop Frans fretting when the footie is on and we are out of range for the normal TV antenna. Tonight we are at Guthalungra rest stop north of Bowen – another noisy night on Highway 1, and planning tomorrow to stop at Toomulla north of Townsville and wait for better weather to arrive. We are due in Cairns on 30 July, so will be able to take it easy for the rest of the drive.

We are finally nearing our departure for our long awaited trip to the USA, Canada and Alaska – on 9 August we fly out from Cairns. When we return from there at the end of September, we will contemplate the future and decide which direction to travel. Until then,

Cheers for now,

Bev & Frans