

The Hamer Newsletter



G'day, hope you are enjoying our retirement.

Well, finally we are now seriously into retirement mode and on our way.

Unfortunately, we were not able to take delivery of the trailer in time to bring it up to Cairns and have our farewell drinks and an "open Motorhome". We will be back in Cairns in June so if you are interested, you can have a look then and have a belated farewell drink or 2 with us then. The delays in its delivery meant that we could not set it up in Cairns and we had to assume our belongings would fit and send it down to Brisbane by removalists.

We took delivery of the trailer on Christmas eve even though it was not yet completed, but we needed to unpack our belongings and try to fit it all in our new home. After a very nice Christmas day with friends, we spent the next week starting to set up the trailer.

Went to Buddina for a few days staying at the Buddina school at a CMCA (Campervan & Motorhome Club of Aust) chapter rally. Great location, one block from the beach and shopping centre at the back gate with all the shops (particularly Howards Storage) we needed to buy more stuff to set ourselves up.



Delivered the trailer back to the manufacturer early January for them to complete the work and do some modifications and the inevitable long list of extras.

To give us plenty of time to finish setting it up, we went to Frans' sister's place on 50 acres in Crows Nest (near Toowoomba) and spent about 2 weeks getting it right and finding the most efficient way of storing all our stuff in the limited space and of course numerous trips to the likes of Bunnings, Howards Storage etc. Ended up with more space than we needed so very quickly we accumulated more "stuff" to fill the available space mostly essentials such as wines, scotch, port, sherry etc.

Back to Brisbane on 1 Feb for a board meeting so we took the opportunity to take our home back to the manufacturer for some more modifications and yes, more extras and we now have it exactly as we want it. On the way to Brisbane we spent a night at Ravensbourne National Park and 2 days at Lake Dyer.

From Brisbane we spent one day in Rathdowney and a few days at Flanagans Reserve in the hills outside Rathdowney. Huge camping area alongside the headwaters of the Logan River with a few nice swimming holes, which accommodates up to 800 people in the busy period such as Easter, and we had it all to ourselves. The photo on the right is the view from our front door with a nice swimming area virtually at the doorstep. Nice park with all the critters – possums, koalas,



lizards of all types, king parrots etc. Did some excellent day trips around the region bringing back some memories for Frans as he often went camping and bushwalking in his (much) younger days.

On to Woodenbong for 2 nights and some local sightseeing drives then to Casino where we stayed at the CMCA village for 4 nights which has excellent facilities for members. Currently we are at Brooms Head (by mistake) which is south of Yamba after staying at Yamba and Brunswick Heads. We had planned to stay in a nearby Yuraygir national park but had a look at Brooms Head first with the reserve right on the beach which we couldn't resist.

We planned to stay 2 nights at Brooms Head but look like staying here for 6 nights when we then have to be at Coffs Harbour for Frans to fly to Brisbane for a board meeting. It is a bit hard to leave a place with the view from the window (photo on the right) miles of beach to



ride the bike, surfing a few paces from the front door and some seriously good fishing spots.



Interesting thing now that we are on our way is that we have both completely wound down to full retirement mode. Do not miss a permanent home, work or Cairns (particularly with

its wet season in full swing). We have never been so relaxed.

Our itinerary from here is just a bit flexible, actually, more like non existent. Because of the late delivery of the trailer we will defer Tasmania till next year so the only date in our diary (apart from Frans' monthly board meetings for which we need to be near an airport) is to arrive in Melbourne towards the end of April when Frans' older daughter arrives from London with her new partner. This calculates to an average of less than 20 kilometres today which is starting to look like a bit of a rush.

For the technically minded the details of the trailer:

Length:	8.05 metres (26½ feet in the old language) and 8.3 metres (27¼ feet) overall
Width:	2.5 metres
Dry weight:	3.08 tonne
Loaded weight:	Not weighed but probably about 3.95 tonne
Fresh water:	280 litres
Grey water:	140 litres
Gas:	18 kg
Solar:	4 panels each 85 watt
Batteries:	2 AGM batteries each 200 amp hours
Battery charger:	50 amp electronic
Inverter:	SEA Voyager 1500 watt pure sine wave
Fridge:	Dometic 3 way (gas, 240v and 12v)
Other:	Queen size bed, toilet, shower, 3 burner gas stove, gas griller, convection Microwave oven, slide-out pantry, wardrobe (full size plus slide-out baskets) in-line water filter, flat screen TV, DVD player, electric steps, electric legs,