

The Hamer Newsletter



14 March 2011

Hello to One and All,

Well, as usual time has flown by and here we are at Perth Hills National Park Centre outside Mundaring. It is a beautiful place and we are going to enjoy the next 2 months here. Initially we said we would spend March here, but as they do not have anyone booked for April we decided to stay for April as well.

After our last newsletter we remained at Big Valley campground at Margaret River until the end of January. Australia Day saw the traditional back yard cricket match, with "the Aussies" playing "the Foreigners". Bev, being a Pom, played for the Foreigners and made a few runs for the team.



Frans opted to be the Umpire and with the Umpire's umbrella hat on and a cool drink in hand adjudicated in a reasonably fair manner. A great time was had by all, followed by a sausage sizzle.

The last few days of January saw us

preparing for a cyclone (Bianca) which had made its way down the west coast and was heading for the south west. In the end it fizzled out before making land fall and we had no bad weather at all. We felt very lucky to be in the south of W.A. at this time as it was about the only place in Australia to escape floods, cyclones, bush fires, locusts or tornados.

Tuesday 1 February

Leaving Big Valley, we made our way to Big Brook Arboretum campground outside Pemberton. We had no problem getting in and setting up camp, and the Ranger arrived to give us all the camp host gear and organise what we needed to do – not much really, just keep a general eye on things. We chose to do some work around the camp and the Ranger brought all the tools needed – brush cutter, lawn mower,



extendable limb saw, rake & shovel, paint. We spent quite a bit of time tidying the place and repainted all the signs, and the toilet door (to cover up graffiti).



We went for a bike ride to the Big Brook Dam, on a forest track, then round the lake on a well made bitumen track. The lake is beautiful and is a popular picnic and swimming spot for the locals and visitors to the area.

The Ranger took us out on a couple of day trips to see other areas in his district in the

D'Entrecasteaux National Park, including the beautiful Yeagarup Dunes and beach. We stopped on top of the dunes and looked out over the forest which is gradually being taken over by the encroaching sand. We also saw the



Fish Creek area which is a popular remote beach fishing area. This involved a lot of travel on very narrow sand tracks into areas that we would not take our truck, because it is just too big. On these trips he showed us other campgrounds

which we would be able to get into with Stopalot, such as Leaning Marri (named after a



huge Marri tree) and Carey Brook. Nearby Goblin Swamp is an interesting tree-landscape. We probably will not have the chance to go back to these places and stay as the rest of this year is planned out and we will be going back east at the end of the year.

Another day out was to the small town of Northcliffe and a visit to the Southern Forest Sculpture Walk. This is a very interesting walk through the forest with works by various artists in very different styles tucked in amongst the trees and bushes.



Tuesday 1 March

We handed over to the new camp hosts and left Big Brook, and made our way to Bonney Ski Park near Perth for an overnight stop.

Wednesday 2 March



We arrived at Perth Hills National Park Centre and set up in the camp host site. It is only just big enough but was easier to get into than expected – or maybe it is just that Frans is so good now at reversing that he makes it look easy. Our friends Richard and Dianne who had hosted here during February remained for the night and showed us around. It is a lovely place and there is quite a lot of work to do so we will be kept

busy for the next couple of months. The autumn leaves are going to be a daily raking & removal chore, but at least it might help us to keep fit.

That's all the news for now folks,

Regards,
Frans & Bev

