

The Hamer Newsletter



8 October 2013

Hello to One and All,

Another 6 months or so have passed, so it's time to update you with our travels since February. We have not really travelled much as we have stayed for long periods at different places. We will rectify that next year and get back to real travelling again.

4 March

We left Sydney and travelled an hour north to Woy Woy to stay with old friends Helen & Don who we last saw in 2007. We spent a few days there and did some trips around the area with them.

We also went to visit Bev's cousin Jilly and her family. Only 2 more cousins to meet now, one in Tasmania and the other in Singapore!

7 March

Left Woy Woy and travelled to Mungo Brush campground in the Myall Lakes National Park. After all the recent rains the campground was partly flooded and we were lucky to find a site big enough for us. There were dingos in the camp, stealing shoes and anything else they



could find laying around. It's a pity they have become partly dependant on humans for food scraps. We drove up to the ferry –

closed due to flooding. All of the other campgrounds we passed were completely under water. The mosquitoes were fierce.

The following day the campground was full with weekend campers. The locals said they had never seen that much water in the area.



9 March

To Wingham where we had intended to stop at a freecamp on the river bank, but the area had been badly affected by floods. The road to the river was partly washed away and the toilets and



picnic shelter had been underwater, so we moved on to Taree showgrounds for the night. It had also been partly flooded but there was enough dry ground for us to park.

10 March

To Urunga Heads Holiday Park, one of the best caravan parks we have ever been to. There is a boardwalk out to Urunga Heads with great views from the lookout. It is a really lovely seaside town and well worth a visit.



12 March

To Lake Arragan in Yuraygir National Park near Maclean. We were able to park in a large site with a view to the ocean. It is a beautiful place and we enjoyed 3 very

peaceful days there.



15 March

To Lismore showgrounds where our friend Liz works. We last saw her in 2009 so it was good to catch up again and spend some time with her.

18 March

After leaving Lismore we headed to Stopalot's birthplace at Southern Cross Caravans just south of Brisbane. We had a few things checked out and some minor repairs done before going to Redcliffe showgrounds. Unfortunately,

Redcliffe is yet another low cost camp that has been closed to camping by the Council, so we could only stay one night, and then moved on to a caravan park in Clontarf at the beach.

We stayed there for 2 weeks while we caught up with friends Barry & Elaine and collected our mail, went for day trips to Brisbane, had lunch with friends, visited friends Lavina & Kevin on Bribie Island, and watched the start of the Brisbane to Gladstone yacht race on Good Friday.

3 April

To Benarkin for an overnight stop on the way to Crows Nest. Benarkin has to be one of the best free camps we have been at and is a favourite stopover for us.

4 April

To Crows Nest caravan park for the night. On the way we had a flat tyre on Stopalot due to a faulty valve – lucky we noticed it before the tyre was damaged. Frans replaced the valve and inflated the tyre and all was well.

We went to see Benny & Peter and Frans mowed a small area so we could move in next day.

5 April

We moved over to Benny & Peter's place and set up and stayed there for 10 days.

17 April

To Woodgate to stay with friends Neil & Marieke and learn all about Woodgate Beach Houses so they could go away on holiday. On 25 April we all went to the Anzac Day dawn service.

Neil & Marieke left on 1st May and we were on our own for the next 2 months looking after their business.



Friends Glen & Geoff came to visit for a week. We were quite busy at times, but enjoyed our stay there. There were some fabulous sunsets and the prawns were running so there were heaps of boats out catching them.

6 July

We left Woodgate after Neil & Marieke returned and went to RV Homebase in Maryborough for a few days. There had been lots of work done since our last visit and heaps of landscaping completed in the next areas to be built. There was plenty of building activity and new houses springing up.



9 July

Back to Clontarf for a few weeks. We met up with more old friends, Carol & David who we knew in Cairns. Hopefully we can go camping with them next year when they finally retire and start travelling in their caravan.

2 August

To Tara for the camel races and festival. We met up there with a group of fellow travellers and spent a few fun days watching the various cultural events (music, dancing and so on) and the camel races which are hilarious. Camels often take no notice of the jockey and do their own thing – great fun to watch. There were over 700 caravans & motorhomes parked in the grounds and thousands of day visitors as well, so it was a very busy and successful event for the tiny town.



6 August

To Cecil Plains for an overnight stop – another pleasant freecamp.



freecamp but rather noisy as it is also a truck rest area on the highway and trucks were coming and going all night.

19 August

Back to Woodgate Beach, but this time for a holiday and to help Marieke celebrate her 60th birthday, and Neil his 61st. Several of their family members came to stay as well, so a great time was had by all.

7 August

Back to Benny & Peter's at Crows Nest for a few days. We had the car serviced and then had to replace the water pump – plenty of \$\$\$ exited the bank account!

18 August

To Ban Ban Springs for the night – a good



We went whale watching in Hervey Bay one day and had the best day imaginable. It was quite rough and the whales were very active. The skipper of the boat said he had not seen that many whales so active and breaching before.

We also managed some fishing (not very successful but enjoyable anyway).

12 September

After a great time, we left Woodgate and went to RV Homebase in Maryborough again, this time for our first official "Happy hour".

The management put on a regular event for the residents and prospective residents. We had a great night, with good food, lots of wine and great company. We met lots of residents and people waiting for their houses to be completed.

It was warm weather so the pool was ideal for cooling down. We also enjoyed a games night with some of the residents. We are looking forward to moving in one day and becoming part of this community.

The new RV Wash Bay was completed while we were there, so Fang and Stopalot both had a much needed wash.

17 September

To Caboolture showgrounds for a week – not a bad place to stay but very noisy. The Sunday markets there are very good, and there were mini-bikes on the track and horses in the ring so it was quite an interesting time. While there we visited the Historical Village and spent a few hours looking at the old buildings and equipment of days gone by.



23 September

To Woodford showgrounds for a week – a much quieter location. We visited the couple we



farm-sat for in January 2013. There was a Triumph/BSA bike club in at the weekend showing off all their beautiful old bikes.

We celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary on 25th September with lunch at the Woodford pub.

30 September

To Casino in New South Wales via Boonah, for a Southern Cross Owners Group Muster – our first. We thought it was about time we went to the annual get-together, seeing as we were the first

client to buy one of their fifth wheeler vans! We spent a great week there getting to know our fellow travellers and it was a great sight with 15 fifth wheelers and one caravan all lined up.



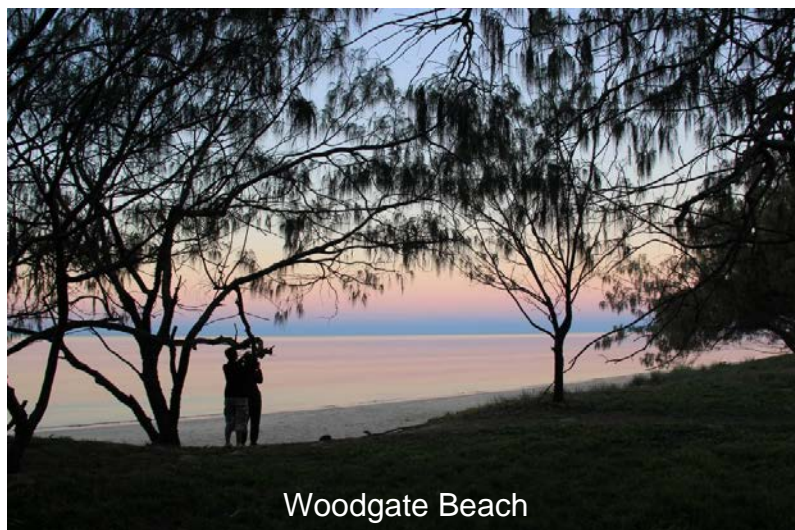
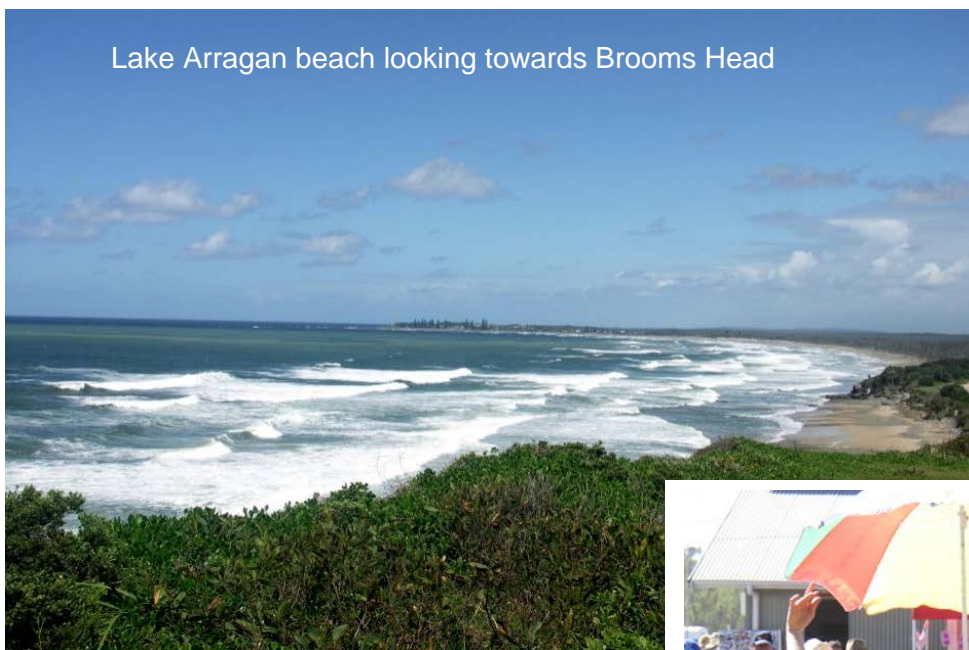
Happy Hour each day was lively and fun, and the “official” dinner also a fun time, so we are looking forward to next year’s muster already.

So, that’s the news for now. We are going to spend Christmas somewhere near Brisbane, and then go to RV Homebase and park Stopalot & Fang for 5 weeks while we go over to New Zealand for a tour around in a rented motorhome. The main purpose of the visit is to go to Bev’s sister’s wedding, but we figure we might as well make the most of it and see as much as we can while there and also catch up with several Kiwi friends as well.

Bye for now,

Bev & Frans

Lake Arragan beach looking towards Brooms Head



Woodgate Beach



Entertainment at Tara Camel Races



Dinghies prawning Woodgate



That was close!



Some of our friends joined us at the Tara camel races



.....and a quick wave goodbye till next newsletter