

The Hamer Newsletter



17 February 2014

Hello to One and All,

We sent our last newsletter in October last year. So much has happened since then that we need to break it up into 3 editions, one for the rest of 2013 and two for our grand tour of New Zealand.

8 October 2013

We left Casino after the Southern Cross Owners' Group muster and went to Wadeville Woolies campground near Kyogle, at the edge of the Border Ranges National Park. This is a beautiful spot with a great view, but very small and sloping, and we were only able to get in because there were



no other campers there.

We went for a drive around the National Park which still had a lot of debris from the storms

early in the year. At one point a big python across the road took its time getting out of the way so we could drive on.



10 October

To Mullimbimby via Murwillambah and the Coolamon Scenic Drive – a very narrow, twisting road not really suitable for big rigs. Sometimes the GPS is not the best navigator. We stayed at the Leagues Club campgrounds and went to the Farmers Market the next day and sampled delicious almond croissants and profiteroles for breakfast.

11 October

To Canungra where we stayed at the James Sharpe campground, another beautiful spot. We went for a drive around the area to Mt Tambourine and Binna Burra but there was thick cloud and fog in places so not much in the way of views.

13 October – 11 November

We stayed in Caboolture and Woodford while we attended to some boring medical issues, visited Crows Nest to see Benny & Peter, and went to Murgon for the music muster, but when we arrived at the showgrounds it was all too crowded and busy, so instead we went to Bjelke-Petersen Dam for a few days. We did some



drives around the area and visited the very interesting Dairy Museum.

12 November

To Pomona showgrounds, a nice spot but quite noisy with trains nearby and very sloping ground. The little town is nice and it is a pleasant place to stay a few days. We did some day trips to Coolum Beach, Boreen Point and Gympie and had thunderstorms most afternoons.

19 November

To Biggenden where we stayed at a free camp on the edge of town.



20 November

We had the annual registration inspection on Stopalot, then headed to Cania Gorge for a few days. It was very hot, but we managed to do some of the walks early in the day. More thunderstorms in the afternoons and we even had hail.



25 November

To Iron Ridge bush park at Goodwood (Childers) where friends Neil and Marieke joined us for a couple of nights. This is a great new bush park with big drive through sites.

28 November – 20 December

Meandering around filling in time in Maryborough, Woodford and Brisbane while we finished off the boring medical stuff – all OK except that Bev has a “frozen shoulder” which will take some time to heal.

21 December

Back to R V Homebase in Maryborough to spend Christmas and New Year, and prepare for the trip to NZ. We had Christmas lunch with a group of Homebase residents at the Maryborough Sports Club, very much enjoyed by all and there was no cooking or cleaning up to do. New Years Eve was a low key but fun time at the Homebase, and for the first time in years we actually stayed up to see in the New Year.

1 January 2014

We washed Stopalot and relocated into the garage of a display home, finished packing our cases and prepared to leave in the morning. It was a strange experience sleeping in a garage, but great to know that Stopalot & Fang were safely tucked under cover for the 5 weeks we would be away.



2 January

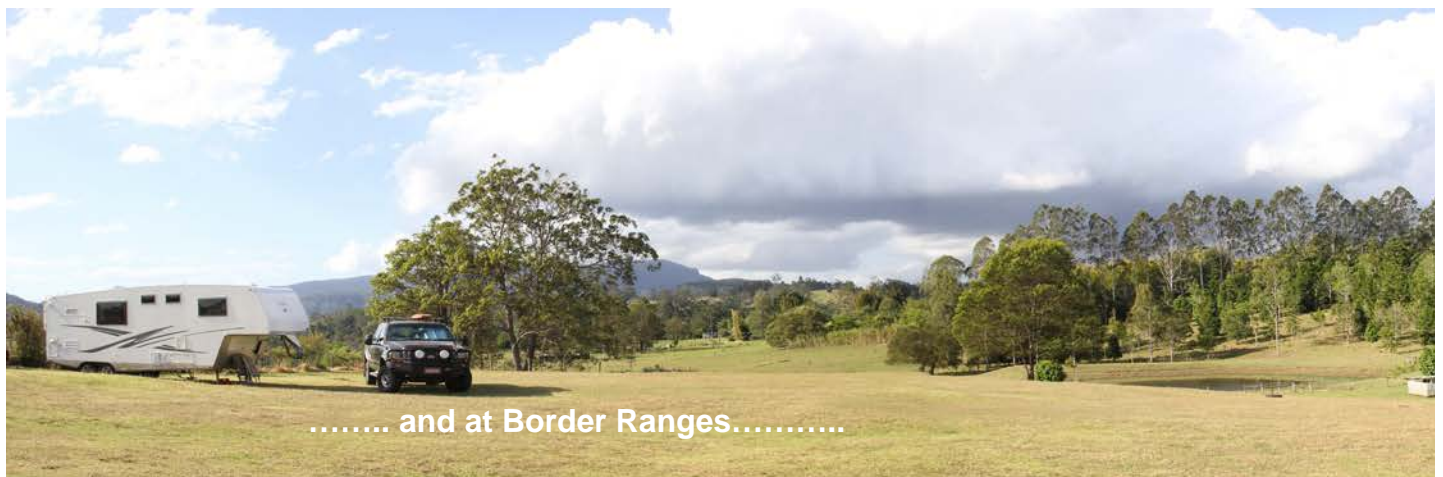
A friend took us to the bus transit centre in Maryborough to catch our ride to Brisbane airport. We arrived in Auckland at 11.35pm ready for sleep and our adventure in NZ.

Bye for now

Frans & Bev



Plenty of room at Cania Gorge.....



..... and at Border Ranges.....



..... and at Woodford



King parrot



Flood damage Cania Gorge



Dragon Cave - Cania Gorge