

The Hamer Newsletter



31 January 2016

Hello to One and All,

We thought it was time to do another update since the last one was 6 months ago. Back then we were just about to move in to our new home and we were busy finding furniture and all the other stuff you need in a house. Now we have been here for just over 6 months, we have everything we need and it is time to make our travel plans.

Fang has been tidied up and polished, the paint work is again black and shiny and the metal trims are also polished up and looking great, plus 5 new tyres. Stopalot has been cleaned inside and out and also given a really good polish. Frans has almost completed his maintenance list so we will soon be good to go. This time when we go we will have some empty cupboards in the van and the others will not be crammed full! We can now just take the things we will need for the trip and leave the rest at home.

We have been away 3 times since we moved in.



29 July 2015

To Kumbia south-west of Kingaroy where we met up with friends Sue & Jim and stayed overnight at the free camp, had dinner at the local pub and played darts.

30 July

The four of us went to Tara west of Dalby where we joined a group of friends camped at the race course for the Tara Camel Races. We stayed there for 5 nights enjoying the races, the cultural activities and the company of our friends. The days were warm and sunny and the nights cool enough to enjoy the camp fire.



4 August

To Dalby for 2 nights to have a look around on our way to the get-together in Wondai.

6 August

To Wondai free camp to join a group of RV Homebase residents for a long weekend. We ended up with 17 vans & motorhomes and a good time was had by all with dinners at the local pub and RSL club and visits to the local bakery. The weather was still sunny but cold at night.



18 August

Back to RV Homebase and washed the van and car in the wash bay before putting it in the garage. It is really great to be able to do this and put a clean car and van into our garage.

3 September

Time to head off again. We went to the Rocky Creek Scout Camp at Landsborough to join the CMCA Highway Wanderers for a get together. We had great weather and the big nightly camp fire was a social occasion. Much fun was had at the pizza night, sausage sizzle and the grand "Non-talent" event where some brave people got up and performed for the rest of us.

6 September

To Redcliffe showgrounds so we could visit Barry & Elaine and buy some rugs for the house.



9 September

To Kalbar showgrounds for a night, one of our favourite stopovers.

10 September

To Gordon Country bush camp at Goomburra for our annual Southern Cross Owners Group muster. There were already 14 fifth wheelers and vans there when we arrived and in total 34 vans attended. It was a great social event with camp fires, lots of chatting and a huge camp oven cookup one night. We did some of the walks in the area,



Castle Lookout and Sylvesters Lookout in the Main Range National Park.



It was a nostalgic farewell at the end of the muster as the owners of Southern Cross had retired and closed down the business, so we all knew there would be no more new fifth wheelers in the future. We all resolved to continue the annual muster and maintain the friendships we had made.

15 September

To Wondai free camp where we were joined by 2 other Southern Cross fifth wheelers for the night and all went to the pub for dinner.

16 September

Back to RV Homebase with friends John & Suzanne who stayed for 2 nights on the hardstand in their fifth wheeler. (One bonus of living here is we can have friends visit and stay for 2 nights free of charge in their own van).

Then we stayed home for 3 months. This was a new experience for us, being in our own home for so long after 8+ years on the road! Frans' daughter Karyn came from Melbourne for Christmas and we enjoyed a quiet but "quality time" 6 days with her.

30 December

To Standown Park bush caravan park near Gympie with 3 other couples from RV Homebase. We spent 2 nights there and enjoyed a New Year Eve dinner laid on by the park owners and 60's & 70's style entertainment for the night. We did not see the New Year in – past all that!

1 January 2016

A new year and we went to Traveston to attend a Geo-Caching event. We camped for 3 nights and enjoyed driving around finding geo-caches with our friends and meeting new friends.

4 January

Back to RV Homebase and here we will stay until 18th February when we will join a group of RV Homebase residents at Standown Park for a week for a "group getaway".

After that we will be home until we leave in mid-March for our next big trip going south to Brisbane, then New South Wales, Canberra, Victoria, South Australia and across the Nullarbor to West Australia. We want to explore the coastal National Parks we have not seen near Esperance in WA. It will be during winter and the weather may be foul, but at least there will not be much competition for the camp sites.

We have agreed to farm-sit for friends at Bindoon north of Perth in July, so will make our way up there late June and look after the dog, cat and chooks while they go overseas. When they return in late July it will be about time for the wild flowers to burst into bloom, so we will tour around the wild-flower areas. Last time we were camp ground hosting and did not have the time to do much looking ourselves. This time we will be tourists and just meander around finding the flowers before going back across the Nullarbor.

Christmas we think will be in Melbourne with Frans' daughters. Kym will be coming over from London and as we only get to see her every 2 years when she makes the trek over here, we will take the opportunity to spend time with her and Karyn.

After that it will be back home for a while until we decide on the next trip. We plan to see as many family and friends as possible during this trip as we expect that future trips will be shorter and not so far from home, although we do want to go back to Tasmania for a few months – maybe 2017 for that one.

We are looking forward to getting "back on the road" and travelling again and seeing some more of this country - and seeing family and friends.

Regards,
Frans & Bev

