

Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



NEWSLETTER No 83.5 OCT-NOV 2013
PO BOX 4028 Lake Haven 2263

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From Mareeba, Left Mareeba travelled to Herberton where we visited a camera and spy museum which we found very interesting, old cameras and Russian KGB miniature spy cameras. This museum was very well presented. From there to "Garradunga Pub" free camp on green lush grass provided we had a drink/feed in the Pub.

Next stop "Paronella Park which was very worth while, entrance and camping fee included, 1933 property where a Spanish immigrant had a dream and built several buildings including a castle, he had the foresight to utilise the flowing water from the water fall to generate his own electricity which supplies all power to the park and the remainder sells back to the grid.

We visited the memorial for the battle of the Coral Sea at Cardwell. Then to Blue Water free camp 29 km from Townsville.

We were disappointed with the town with numerous shops with "For Lease" signs displayed, however there were regional shopping centres established within 15 km of Townsville. Then onto Charters Towers, where Sue met her

Cousin who runs a 2nd hand dealership. We went through an early miners cottage and museum where Sue did some gold panning with some success. Caught up with Roy and Laurel Curnow at their chosen caravan park..

The following day did the tourist things and learned about the history of the town. That evening we had a BBQ at our caravan park then went to a local pub where Phil Emanuel was playing, awesome !!!!! a good night

Spent three nights at Charters' Towers leaving there on Saturday and travelled back to Townsville and visited the Caravan and camping show and also the Reef HQ Aquarium which is a worth while site to see.

The following day travelled south towards Bowen when Sue received a text from our newly found friends they had found a showground at AYR which had just started to let caravanners stay with power and water for \$ 10 per night. Weather has been spot on now wo months away from home. **Sue/Graham xx**

Paronella Park, Cairns – Laurel and group

Jill and I got up just before sunrise and walked to beach, captured sunrise photos and watched the turtle heads bobbing up as they fed, very hard to catch on camera, they are very fast.

Left for Paronella Park. We were second last to arrive The girl standing with clipboard in hand said, you are all here now. I said no, I've just arrived. She said no Curnow is already here, - no I'm Curnow and I'm just arriving. – Have a look at the sheets and see whether you recognise anyone. – yes, Pollard and she is already here and Shawcross has just arrived they are behind us. A very different place, worth a look if travelling through, and they have acquired local hotel and the land behind for extra caravan spots. For the first time we had 2 separate happy hours, the men outside Holland's van and the women outside ours. Too hot at BBQ area.

Next morning off we went to Cairns. Chris was in the first group and she was stopped by a cane train crossing the road. She was there for a while, she called that she was on the move again, then we heard her call 'oh no', now I'm stopped by it again at the next section of road crossing. When approaching Babinda someone called we are stopping for a pie, Noel said so am I, so of course so did we. Lovely pies recommended by guide at sugar mill who also recommended cream buns. Cannards bought one and so did we. Were delicious. Peter fixed his mirror and moved out. Now we're on our own with Tom. Bit scary going through outskirts of Cairns, the Cannards had at some distance in front and we didn't trust Tom completely. However Noel called back with his instructions and our bloke didn't let us down, he was telling us to go the same way. All arrived safely, no incidents, hey we're getting good at this.

Setting up and who should come walking towards us but Susan Edwards and Grahame Williamson, they will spend the next 3 days with us.

Roy left a box of medication on kitchen table. We had it sent to Cairns P.O. In we went to get it. Roy wouldn't park outside P.O. as parking meters there, so drove round block and parked. A hot two block walk back, right beside P.O. was free customer parking! We'd missed that. Oh well, picked up parcel and made our way back to car. Roy said if you're having coffee stop now as I have to sit down. (Roy hates me stopping for coffee). I bought iced coffee, a mini pastry and we sat in the cool. So to save \$2 parking meter we spent \$6.

Cairns and surrounds

Carole decided on an outer reef trip, the rest of us to Daintree River. We drove the Hollands

today. Came off very busy 3 lane arterial road, up to next roundabout 3 lanes and very busy and back down to service station for fuel. Back down to first roundabout, slip road thing, took wrong turn, now heading for the beach, round next roundabout, back to arterial, round and on our way again, evidently not as good at finding our way as I'd been thinking. Very stressed as I thought we'd miss boat, but got there in time for a cup of tea and enjoyed our Daintree cruise, we managed to spot one hatchling croc and a big croc, so all good. A quick toilet break at cruise centre before setting off again, Peter



and Noel accidentally went to ladies although Noel insists he was only going in to get Peter out. That's his story and he's sticking to it. Peter and Yvonne went in to Daintree Village, the rest of us made for Mossman for lunch, a much improved experience than Mission Beach, lovely food and terrific service. We all wandered along the street sightseeing. I heard laughter and there was Roy looking up at what I thought was a half naked girl on a balcony – obviously I thought it was a brothel. No, no it was only a life size figure owned by 3 guys,

very lifelike. Of course Roy had to have his photo taken with 'it'.

The 4 of us had a stop at Port Douglas, Roy bought a famous Mocka's pie, very nice. It's a really busy place these days, but still a nice town.

Then off back to van park. Some really lovely scenery along the coastal strip. Got back to the arterial road roundabout/slipway, Greta and I thought turn right, John said straight ahead, so we sat silent like good wives, oops, wrong way Turn right at next turn says John, but Roy was in left lane, driver behind was just a bit irate, so we kept going. John turned Tom on and he took us up further and then a right turn, through the outskirts of the Botanical Gardens, what a fortunate error. A very pretty drive and then back on arterial and safely back.

Carole enjoyed her day although she said it was a rough trip out and a few people were sick. She snorkled and said the coral and fish were beautiful.



Atherton, Mt Surprise, Charters Towers, Emerald and beyond –

Atherton Woodlands C.P. and friendly staff. Very quietly spoken man got each of on to our sites first go, great. Roy's daughter Terri-Lee

took us round the local sights. First day we did over 200kms and saw waterfalls, windfarm, a memorial for troops in Afghanistan which was very moving, lakes, craters, chocolate/cheese tasting and lunch at the dairy, home about 6pm, we were all worn out. Second day we went to Mareeba, we stopped at Heritage Centre, a really interesting museum, Roy asked a group of pre-schoolers to sing happy birthday to John Holland which they did enthusiastically.

Then to Coffee Works, where even Roy spent the \$12 entry. Included an audio tour and as many tastings of chocolates, coffees, liqueurs as we wanted. Then to the mango winery and out to Granite Gorge. Very hot out there, but lots of walks, the shortest cost \$5, Gloria and the Moores did that one, but the rest of us dipped out. Wendy Geale went to Chillagoe for the day and said it was very interesting. Wendy and Noel rested for the day. The next day John Holland realised he had lost his prescription sunglasses. We looked everywhere, he left his details at the office, then a week later he found them in their picnic basket which had been put away under seat.

Terri-Lee came with us to Mt Surprise, she waited at gate to lead us, Hollands left first as John tends to stop a few times, Chris came out with 2 other vans and I heard her say over CB to TL, yep, we're all here, lets go, the rest of us, 5 vans were scrambling into our cars. TL doesn't have CB so we couldn't let her know we were still in the park. John Shawcross called 'there's no one out here, Glor doesn't know whether to turn left or right'. 'Turn right Gloria' Yvonne called 'we can't get out yet, someone has us blocked in'. Anyway we all caught up at Ravenshoe at a wee break so all was good. Bedrock van park at Mt Surprise has nearly all drive throughs, although

most of them you can't stay hooked up. Nice park, plenty of shade, a nice pool to cool off in and nice staff. 7.50am ready for our tour up to Einasleigh, Copperfield Gorge in Bedrock bus and back on the Savannahlandia train, an expensive tour, but a great day, we were all tired by the time we got back. We had coffees and/or ice creams, then happy hour then retired.

7.20am next morning ready for tour of Lava Tubes at Undara. Some took the later option and drove out for the short tour or just a look around. For the rest of us a lot of climbing up and down, but a great experience.

Next day off to Greenvale. Left ¾ hour earlier than we said, as usual which found Gloria sending emails while waiting, she should have known better. Stopped about 50km from Greenvale for toilet stop so decided on a coffee. Jill and Pam said they'd keep going, but went the wrong way (to Hughendon), back they came, Jill saying they only went to check out roadhouse on other road. Yeah right. Funny little van park, but shady, and friendly staff. I had ½ loaf bread with mould. Cut off mould and had 2 half slices which I toasted. Tasted fine. Roy scrounged a bit of stale bread, not mouldy and we had lunch. First game of Phase 10 this afternoon at back of

Moores van in shade. Jill had her first game, with Chris saying to her (very crossly), 'pick up first Jill'. 'Oh yes, sorry, sorry'. A fun game which Jill won. The Moores left us the next morning. They were not stopping at Charters Towers. They were great company.

Everyone out the gate from Greenvale early again, Peter wasn't ready, he and Yvonne were not at all well, we waited but we caught everyone at the first roadhouse. Arrived at

Charters Towers, the woman booking us in was a bit short with some. The trick was not to ask any questions and have everything ready that she asked for, the first grumpiness we've come across. Susan and Graham met us again, they were going to book into park, but the woman wouldn't give them their Top Tourist discount without their card. They'd joined at previous park so didn't have card at that stage. They decided to go elsewhere, I didn't blame them. I wouldn't recommend the



park for those reasons. Chris took us to the lookout, took photos, read all the info and back into car. Roy was still reading, Chris called him. 'Haven't finished reading yet', 'doesn't matter, there are 29 bunkers on the hill, that's all you need to know, hop in'. Obviously Roy needs to learn to read faster. Went to Ravenswood, an old mining town, used to be 48 pubs, now only 2. Took a picnic lunch and we all had a nice day. Carpentaria Gold is working the mine again, so a bit more business in the town.

On the way back came across a very big old boat in a paddock with the following written on site 'WATER WANTED BOAT GRUMPY'

Couple of games of phase 10 this stop. I drove Gloria, Carole and Greta to town. As I was reversing out Carole called 'stop, stop, you're going to hit a tree'. Thanks Carole, you might misplace a few things, but you sure saved our car. We went to the Civic Club for a drink, it's been there since 1880, a very unique place.

Noel and Wendy leaving for Emerald a day before us. A long drive, so all out the gate by 7.30, other than Peter and Yvonne who are sounding a lot better now. I had taken over the driving while Roy had a sleep, the fuel gauge was dropping rapidly and we still had 40km to the next fuel stop. I turned off the air conditioning and slowed my speed. Roy woke and started to open window. 'No you can't open window or turn on A/C as we are nearly out of fuel and still have 15km to go'. Jill called that their car was travelling on the smell of an oily rag. Chris had stopped and put in 10L of diesel that she carries. We all pulled into the roadhouse near Clermont with relief. Wendy had rung the night before to say they barely made it as well.

Wendy Geale is sick now, so Chris took her to doctor. We went to Rubyvale for a look, some bought jewellery, sapphires or semi precious gems, then some of us had lunch at Rubyvale pub, the rest went on to Sapphire and had lunch there. Noel and Yvonne bought a bucket of rocks and sieved through looking for something. Both enjoyed themselves and came away with a few little bits. Noel and Wendy left us Sunday, we'll all miss them. Some of us took a picnic lunch and went out to Lake Marraboon, Fairbairn Dam. We watched the water ski races in the distance. Back to park, really hot now, Greta drove Carole and I up to reception for an ice cream, too hot to walk. Jill/Pam, Wendy/Carole, Chris, Peter/Yvonne, John/Gloria all went off to Carnarvon Gorge

Monday, so that is effectively the end of our trip. How sad, only the Hollands and ourselves now. We've all had an amazing time (I think), what great company and lots of fun. We four sat and looked at one another, we felt like four little orphans. After Carnarvon Peter/Yvonne will do their own thing and finish up at the National Rally in Rockhampton, Gloria/John and Jill/Pam are going to Lightning Ridge, Chris and Wendy/Carole are making for home. We drove directly to Roma, another long day, turned out to be 7 hours due to lots of road works and a couple of stops. It's an interesting town with a bit to see, but it was very hot our last day there. We will be at St George a couple of days, then not far from home.

I've been incredibly lucky, everyone was so much fun to be with and helped me when I panicked. The Davidsons bought me a sign that read 'don't talk to me I'm having a stress attack' and wasn't that the truth. A terrific group of people, thanks for your wonderful company, your help and your humour and thanks Peter for finding our rest stops and making sure I took us on the correct roads. A great bunch to travel with. Loral Curnow xxxxx

Rocking On to Rocky: After leaving Ayr on 10/9/13 and travelled to Airlie beach where we stayed at "Sea Breeze" Tourist Park Cannonvale which is centrally located for shops etc.

It is signposted that there is no free camping permitted in the Whitsundays !!!! a big fine is applicable. This was confirmed by the local Tourist Information Office at Bowen.

However, we bit the bullet and paid \$ 37 per night for three nights and booked a three island cruise around the Whitsundays.

Picked up by coach adjacent to our camp ground at 7am, bus broke down at 7.03 not

even out of the car park!, new coach arrived 20 minutes later and we again headed for Shute harbour, a local flagged us down and advised our driver that there was smoke billowing from the engine at the rear of the coach, Another stop and another coach, to Shute Harbour. We boarded a tri hulled cruiser that took us to Lizard Island where we snorkelled for 1.5 hrs, then to White haven beach for a walk, the sand is like talcum power, then a visit to Day Dream Island and a look see.

During this cruise food was provided, morning T, Lunch and after noon T. Arrived back to attend a BBQ at our van park. A very good day and worthwhile.

A good night sleep and a look see around the shops at Airlie Beach.

Tomorrow we set off again south

Travelled south to Sarina Show ground where we camped with power and water at far side of the ground for \$ 20.00. Next day a thorough wash and clean-up of both van and car.

Found a nice free camp at Clairview near the ocean, several other vans present, an opportunity for me to watch the V8's. Then happy hour with new found caravanners. One of the new found friends had picked up a purpose built "Jayco" motorhome 7 tonne in weight in Jan,13..... he has had it back to them 3 times since Jan. I leant him a jenny for the night, he is not a happy chappie !!!!!!!

We set off towards Rockhampton deciding not to venture West again at this stage, arriving after a non eventful journey, scenery very dry !!!!!

Set up camp in Riverside Tourist Park for the night at Rocky. Cheers Sue/Graham xxxx

Remember: Lefty loosey – Righty tighty

This is an in-between Newsletter hence no birthdays, lunch winners etc

2013 LIST OF TRIPS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TRIP</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Sep 23 – Oct 2 nd	NATIONAL RALLY ROCKHAMPTON QLD	Davidson, Edwards/Williamson, Meatheringham, Reid,	Secretary	4353 9069
Sep 28 – Oct 26 th	2013 FOSSICKERS WAY RAMBLE	Belshaw, Brewer, Clarke, Coltman, D'Adam, Fletcher, Majchrowski, Shoobert, Stevens, Thomas, 10	C/P Stevens	4369 2759
Oct 1 st - 7	TRIBUTE TO STAN COSTER	Cooper, Cotton, Howard, Webb	A/B Howard	4358 4224
Oct 21 st - 27	SLIM DUSTY COUNTRY MUSIC MEMORIES	Howard, McKenzie	A/B Howard	4358 4224
Nov 1 – 7	NARRABEEN RALLY 1800 008 845 DO NOT RING NARRABEEN	Angell,Bickley, Brewer, Brown,Clarke, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow,Davies,Dew,Ducker,Field,Flippence,Geale,Haberfield,Hansell, Henry,Hoff,Holland,Holmes, Howard,Insull, Kane,Kingma, Laney, Lee-Sing,Lindsay, Luttrell,Majchrowski, McGillicuddy, McKenzie,Moore,Oaks, Palmer I/F,Payne, Pollard, Reilly S/A, Rohwer,Russell B/T, Ryan, Sansom, Shawcross,Shoobert, Smith, Smyth,SteellC, Steele L/K,Stewart,,Thomas B/L,Wallace, Wells, Williams Williamson 53	Committee	

2014 LIST OF TRIPS

Feb 6 (for 7 nts)	HAPPY HALLIDAYS 1800 555 454	Trip Sheet Out Soon	Committee	1800 555 454
Feb 13 -19	SHOAL BAY 1800 600 200	Eadie, Henry, Howard, Majchrowski, Sansom, Stevens	C/P Stevens	4369 2759
Mar 6 th -13	SANDBAR FISHING COMPETITION 6554 4095	Bickley, Brown, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Ducker, Insull, Kinnell, Latham, Lee-Sing, Lindsay, Majchrowski, Reilly, Shawcross, Smith, Steell, Stewart, Webster, Wells 19	V/D Kinnell	4390 8933
Mar 7 th – 9 th	STATE RALLY BATHURST		Secretary	4353 9069
Apr 13 – 21st	HARTWOOD COUNTRY MUSIC/BUSH CAMPING	Brewer, Cooper, Eadie, Howard, Jager, Kane, Majchrowski, Olessen, Steell, Webb 10	C/P Kane	4333 9738
Apr 25 th – 27	BOGGABRI DROVERS CAMPFIRE WEEKEND (go straight from Hartwood)	Brewer, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Majchrowski, Ryan, Russell, Sommerville 8	K/S Crocker	4923 1493
Apr 28 – 5 May	LIGHTNING RIDGE	Belshaw, Brewer, Crocker, Jager, Kinnell, Majchrowski, Olessen, Shoobert, Thomas 9	B/B Shoobert	4390 2277

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