

Tuggerah Lakes Caravanners Inc.



NEWSLETTER No 82.5 –Sept/Oct 2013

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THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER. THE REPORTS HAVE NOT BEEN EDITED TO "FIT IN". PLUS A BIT OF OTHER INFORMATION. OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT IN MATERIAL. AC-DC

Trip Reports: We receive lots of comments from members saying that they love to read all the things members do on their trips plus all their mishaps. Editor

Looking Forward to 2014: Just like to say thank you to all involved in organizing this years Xmas Trip to Happy Hallidays. What a fantastic week of entertainment, laughter and enjoyable company. A special thanks to management and staff of Happy Hallidays for helping make sure our week was memorable. Can't wait till next year –bring it on Deb/Barry L. xx

Travel Insurance: Many of our TLC members occasionally leave their van at home and venture off overseas. May last year we booked a European River Cruise for June this year. An upfront part of our process is – always – to

secure a Travel Insurance policy that covers our age, pre existing medical conditions and cancellation. All stitched up and Tour operator paid (lotsa \$'s) - we flew out for Paris on June 1 for our 26 day holiday. Our 3rd day in Paris (and the day before moving to Amsterdam to embark on our River Cruise) the Tour operator called a meeting. "Sorry – but the rest of your holiday has been cancelled due to the record rains and flooding along the river systems. Because the event is classified as an Act of God we are not liable to compensate you for the cancellation – you should claim against you Travel Insurer". It seems that most people in our group had paid for the cancellation "option" which covers such an event - but we know of 1 couple who, in their struggle to secure cover for a pre existing health condition, overlooked the fact that cancellation cover is "optional". We departed Paris for home 2 days later. The Industry has a slogan – "If you can't afford Travel Insurance – you can't afford to travel". – Wendy/Alan

Still Drifting North: Sunday afternoon we arrived at the Apex free camp in Longreach beside the river where about 60 other free campers are here as well. A family ready to move on called us over said take his spot as there was still plenty of heat left in ½ a 44 drum full of hot coals, Sue took the opportunity to take some mincemeat out of the freezer & in an hour its ready for dinner, smelled and tasted delicious.

To date we have travelled just over 3000k's the weather has been very cool at night, down to 4c up to 34c during the days everywhere the ground is very dry & dusty (Red dust) the locals tell us that there has not been rain since the floods in December 12. They depend on artesian water which is hot when it comes out of the bores & is pumped into tanks to cool off & is safe & nice to drink. We have lit fires each night & cooked our meals & sat beside the fires to keep warm "till bedtime, we have even had a few dampers cooked in the camp oven for supper.

At Charleville we saw through a secret American air base used from 1942 to 1946

the American air force & has only a few years ago released it back to Australia. A very interesting place during its peak 4000 service personnel were stationed there.

Then to Augathella where the movie Smiley was filmed. We met Hugh & Dawn a Victorian couple who we get along well with & have travelled, camped & sight seen together through Tambo, Blackall, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe & now at Longreach.

Each place we have seen we are very impressed with the extent of unique history, the locals are pleased to share their own experiences. We plan to spend a few days here then find our way to Winton for a few days.

We have done as follows: 5th today, The Stockman's Hall of Fame, 3 hours, a great experience to see how things were back in those early days.(early Australia at the start) Tomorrow Tuesday 6th, 8am Cobb & Co coach trip along the original tracks that the coaches went in those early days. This apparently included a full gallop of the coach!!!! 6pm Stockman's dinner and outback show.

Wednesday 7th 8.30am, A special time as we are booked to tour the Qantas display, Boeing 707, and 747 plus other exhibits. My Brother John flew both these actual planes prior to retiring.

Next stop Mt. Isa where we part company with Hugh & Dawn as we are going different direction. Cheers "till next time G n S xoxo

The Dream Travels On: The sunset cruise was absolutely wonderful, watching the sun setting over the gulf enjoying fresh seafood and a wine. We arrived home about 10pm.

Leaving Karumba we headed back south about 40 klms to Maggieville, another free camp. We met more people from Cowra. We stayed on the river bank for 2 nights, we saw 3 freshwater and 1 saltwater crocs sunning themselves on the opposite bank.

Our next stop was Leichhardt Lagoon, a bush camp, about 20 klms out of Normanton, another place with very little phone reception, you sit

under the tank stand and connect your 'telstra patch' in to the aerial attached to the top of the tank, the internet doesn't work here.

The fresh veggie man ,also bringing fresh bread from Ravenshoe, arrives from the coast on a Wednesday, so it is an outing for everyone including having lunch at the pub while you wait for the truck to arrive.

There is a replica of "Krys the Savannah King" on display in the main street. It is a 8.63m saltwater crocodile estimated to have weighed 2 tonnes and caught in the local waters.

It is the 125th Year anniversary of the laying of the first sleeper of the line to Croydon so the locals have arranged a special trip to Critter Camp with a dinner back at 11 Mile Creek. There are 100 people booked for this trip, about 15 from this camp are going, so it will be a good night.

The Normanton to Croydon line is only a "branch line", and still listed as such, of the Normanton to Cloncurry line, don't try to 'google' this info as the line was never laid. The gold rush at Croydon was more important.

Saturday night the station owners provide a 3 course dinner for \$5, they also have raffles with the money collected going to the cancer foundation, they have entertainment also. Everyone drives to the farm house in convoy.

The Karumba / Normanton area does not have a large population, but they are able to raise a substantial amount for this charity each year.

Peter has caught some Red Claw and Cherubin in his nets, no luck with fish and we haven't seen any crocs here even though we have been told they are here and others have seen them.

The weather has been a sunny and 3 days with 38oC +, no rain still.

We have been told that in the wet season the area where we are is under at least 2 foot of water and one year it was about 20 foot under.

Leaving here we arrived at Croydon, another old gold mining town founded in 1860's.

During the gold rush era there were 36 hotels with 122 liquor licences issued on the Croydon goldfields. The Club Hotel Croydon, built in 1887 is the only hotel left in town.

Normanton was the inland port and goods, people and gold were carried to and from Croydon by the train line. During the gold rush, the streets were lit by gas lamps and there are still 4 lining the streets.

There are pieces of the gold mining equipment placed around the town and also a mining museum which has an operable 'stamper' used for crushing the stone to release the gold.

We next stayed beside the Cumberland Chimney and Billabong. This was part of the goldfields which covered quite a large area including Georgetown.

The gold found near Georgetown was alluvial. Why were we never taught about all the gold fields in Australian history? The only way we find out about them is to visit all these old towns that are dying due to lack of industry and the young people leaving for the big towns.

Next stop was Mount Surprise where we visited the Undara Lava Tubes, these were formed by a volcanic eruption 190,000 years ago. The lava flowed 90 klms north and over 160 klms to the north west.

We leave Mount Surprise only to drive into drizzly rain.

Our next camp was at Archer Creek Rest Area. We arrived to find the local markets there which was great as we were able to stock up on fresh fruit and vegies. We stayed here for 3 nights and it rained every day.

While we were at Archer Creek we visited Ravenshoe (pronounced Ravens-hoe as locals inform us), a quaint town, along the Kennedy Highway are signage for the WWII 2nd Division AAF and AIF encampment, they are still finding ammunition from this time in the area. This area is now listed as National Park. We visited the Millstream Falls which

are in the National Park, absolutely wonderful as they were in full flow due to the recent rain. Our next stop was Lake Tinaroo in a caravan park. Lake Tinaroo Dam was built in the early 1950's, the water is used for irrigation and there are open channels taking water to Mareeba, Atherton and further. It is still raining. We are needing to get out some warmer clothes now. We went for a drive to Mt Hypipamee and saw the crater created by gas building up from a volcano and just exploding. As we toured around through Herberton which has a historic village still in the making, we saw more signs stating that the WWII 2nd Division was also encamped here, they covered a very large area. We stayed at Rocky Creek War Memorial Park. Between 1943 and 1945 there was a 3000 bed hospital here and over 60,000 patients were treated in the hospital. The patients were brought from all theatres of the South West Pacific. We are now at Mareeba staying with Ned and Sarina, they are friends we have made during our travels. We will be leaving our van at their place while we go on a tour of Cape York.

OUR LATEST HAPS AND MISHAPS from Laurel and group

Off to Woodgate Beach. Some were stopping at Howard to look at some shop. Greta said she'd like a look too. I tried to call John Holland on CB, but no answer. When we got near Howard John went another way, we continued until we could turn round, then John came back, but by then we had turned. Greta was calling apologies over CB, however they couldn't hear us, so we kept going. When they arrived at van park, we found out that John had his CB on a different frequency, for some reason we could hear him, but he wasn't receiving. This will probably be Chris' favourite park as there is a coffee shop attached. John S arrived with a pie for Roy which Owen had assured him was top notch. Owen is another pie aficionado.

My visor cap is missing again, searched everywhere. When Chris arrived and set up beside us, she asked whether I'd lost it again, okay, obviously I left it in her car. Wendy told her not to return it until I asked about it. My gosh I'm travelling with a mean lot.

All here, haven't lost anyone, in fact gained one, Noel and Wendy Cannard have now joined us. .



Woodgate beach is beautiful.

Some of us went back to Childers for a look, some went to Bundaberg, some walked in the national park and some just stayed at Woodgate, swam, walked, coffeed and ate Mamino's yummy ice cream.

BOWEN HAPS AND MISHAPS from Laurel

Left for Bowen, Yvonne stood at gate & let everyone out. I went to turn reversing camera off & noticed tow hitch not pushed down over tow ball. Thank goodness we noticed before going too far. Arrived at Bowen, too short a hop for morning stop today. Navigators taking people round the world, Jill & Pam have decided not to turn theirs on, just follow someone, they can get just as lost that way &



at least they have company. Peter thinks it is those with Tom Toms who are having trouble. Backed on to site, I got lead to plug in to electricity & oops back window was opened, had been like that from Airlie to Bowen.

Roy, John, Gloria & Wendy G sightseeing. Queens Beach Caravan Park is in 2 sections. The older section lots of trees & shrubs, but very small sites. New area shrubs planted, but not yet grown, spacious sites. Nice new camp kitchen, (there is also an older one) & nice amenities. It also has a small pool. Not walking distance to shops, but fairly close to everything.

A lovely bakery here, Roy has already had 2 pies, John Holland 2 sausage rolls. We've swum in the beautiful blue waters of Gray's Bay and Horseshoe Bay, Noel was a bit of a sook & was last one in.

We went up to Flagstaff Lookout, lovely views and decided to have coffee at kiosk. Roy upset because no pies, Wendy Geale had orange juice. Greta & John came along and ordered coffee in takeaway cups, as always. Next thing they have theirs, the rest of us waited 45 minutes. Roy pacing around waiting on us. Lovely fish and chips from co-op for lunch though looking out at water.

Fish fry up at park as fishermen came back with big catch. We paid gold coin donation for oil and gas and had a beautiful feed of fish. Very yummy. Townsville next stop.

MORE HAPS AND MISHAPS - from Laurel and group

Seabreeze van park at Airlie is very big, vans everywhere. Wendy & Chris had a half day calm water fishing excursion. The rest of us went on a 3 island cruise, a beautiful day but some wind, so first part of cruise was a bit rough. The crew were bringing round cups of ice for people to suck – or sick bags, whatever was needed, a couple of people in our group were feeling a bit

squeamish. Carole walked up to front to take photos, leant on a table and WHOOPS, the table tipped, the whole tray of cutlery went all over the floor. Jill said 'that was Carole', the crew weren't happy, all I could see were little flat papers of pepper all over the deck. We couldn't stop laughing, while poor Carole sat in the first available seat & said to the woman next to her "I'm not moving again", the woman said "yes you better sit here and keep out of trouble". One crew member stood up (after picking up knives, forks, spoons, salt & peppers, serviettes), NO ONE MOVE, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR SEATS, IT WILL GET ROUGHER. However things improved, sea calmed, Whitehaven Beach gorgeous, some of us swam, some just walked along beach. Next stop Hook Island, snorkelling, semi submersible for coral/fish viewing. Last island Daydream. Luxury resort. What a great day, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea.



Wendy and Noel pretending to be paying guests at Daydream Island

Chris & Wendy Geale had an upgrade to an outside fishing trip, lucky them – a little boat, very rough, no decent fish, water coming over sides of boat, they both got very wet & Chris at least scared, not sure about Wendy. They were freezing by the time they got in. Oh well, all in a day's fishing. Off to Cedar Creek Falls, but

couldn't find my purse, looked everywhere, went to office for phone numbers for cruise company, Daydream Island & bus company. Came back had one more look, there is was under my mattress. Obviously a man's look. Airlie & surrounds very pretty. We had 3 nice days here.



Carole taking photo of Pam and Jill at Dingo Bay

HAPS AND MISHAPS TO AIRLIE BEACH
from Laurel and group Left Woodgate for Gracemere van park, Rockhampton, with an overnight stop at Calliope Free Camp. Noel Cannard overshot our morning tea stop, so had to turn round. At happy hour Chris took biscuit & dip from Pam even though she'd told her it had chilli in it. Chris' reasoning:- it can't be chilli it's white (it also had sour cream & cream cheese). Gloria is the fastest traveller in our group, Roy said whoever taught her to drive taught her to have no fear, John doesn't have any fear as he can't see her speed, but Roy doesn't know why he can't feel the wind whipping past his face. She passed Jill and Pam, Jill called 'in a hurry Gloria', but John hadn't charged their CB so the sarcasm was lost. As she passed by a police car was following closely then he continued on. Gloria said 'see I wasn't speeding'. Tom Toms were playing up, some directed the old road to Gracemere.

I went to mass at Rockhampton Cathedral, first the reversing camera fell off the windscreen, so I had to nurse it. It was pitch dark when I came out, I went up several wrong streets, beginning to worry about finding the highway when 'there it was' thank goodness, it was so black I nearly missed caravan park entrance. Greta asked didn't I have my Tom Tom with me, yep sure did, but forgot.

We all had a lovely day at Yepoon, Emu Park and Mt Archer. Wendy, Carole and Chris had a day at Keppel Island which they enjoyed. People did their own thing, but hopefully enjoyed all.

We were going to stop at St Lawrence rest area on our way to Airlie Beach, but had a conference at our morning tea stop and decided it would be too early, so Yvonne booked sites at Jolimont caravan park just north of Mackay. Carole & Wendy called to Greta & John that they thought their van door was open, Greta said that no the door was only clipped shut there was always a little gap, but when we stopped for our lunch break it was wide open. Luckily nothing had been lost, but running repairs had to be done. Tom toms went haywire again, ours told us we were there & wanted us to do a U turn, but van park was ahead at bottom of a hill, Others were taking their owners the wrong way, thank goodness for Peter & Yvonne, theirs is never disobedient & they always know the way anyway.

Jolimont is a nice little park on the highway, reasonably priced, drive through sites & a camp kitchen, good for an overnight stop, plus very friendly proprietors.



Newsletter, More H & M Tully, Mission Beach – Laurel and group Don't know that we got lost getting to Townsville. Stayed at Riverside Convention Centre, not a bad camp ground, only problem (for some that is), no alcohol to be consumed in the grounds – they are Seventh Day Adventists. I found out that some of our group are very inventive. Some of us had a lovely day at Magnetic Island. Some did aquarium and museums, lookouts etc. Roy, Carole and I got horribly lost looking for shopping centre nearby. It is huge, wouldn't think we could miss it, but yes. Round and round, up and down streets, I told Roy round the roundabout and to right. I yelled you have left blinker, 'yes, when I get there'. 'You've gone left, I said right'. Bit of a nightmare, but got there in the end. Carole just sat quietly in the back of car. Had dinner in local pub with Pat and Peter R, lovely to catch up with them. Note: Yummy gelatos at Townsville. Peter led us out of Townsville, so no mishaps. After a stop 68km north at the Frosty Mango, and at Cardwell for those who wanted a pie (who would that be) we arrived at Kurrimine Beach, -oops missed the road to park, down to a dead end, managed to turn and there was Noel right behind us calling over CB this won't go in the newsletter, yep it will. Walked out to the reef approx.. 1 ½ km out – up to thighs in water for the walk out, below knees coming back. Slightly concerned about crocs, although locals told us don't worry bull sharks ate them all. A long walk out, Chris stepped in a hole and dunked her new camera, then stepped in another hole, dunked it again. She'd only had it 2 weeks. It is now sitting in a bowl of rice. Oops. When she asked whether anyone had any rice Yvonne asked 'brown or white'. Glad we did walk, no crocs, no sharks, beautiful very big pink and red starfish, sea cucumbers, Wendy saw a baby stingray cream? With blue spots, I saw one yellowy with orange spots. Saw wormy things, brown and orange banded, with jelly fish tentaclely things to feed with and kind of the brown and orange tentacles at back end also I think. Off to Tully sugar mill next day. Attired in

Red safety hats and safety glasses off we went. An interesting tour, a bit hard to hear tour guide, but I think everyone enjoyed it. Then to Mission Beach for a Tropical Fruit Safari. It was at Mission Beach Info Centre. We tried lots of different, delicious fruit and everyone agreed it was a great tasting. Thanks Joy for finding it. **Then off to a café for lunch. A comedy of errors.**

Thirteen of us wandered in ordered various things – the man said there will be a 15 to 20 minute wait as there was only he and his wife, as other staff had just finished their shift. Okay that was fine. Roy got the last pie, I ordered bacon & egg roll, sorry no bacon, so toasted sandwich and coffee, Norm ordered milkshake, as he didn't want to wait and Joy had citrus tart, nothing to drink. At the other table some got their drinks, one got her sandwich, half hour later another got coffee, Noel got his sandwich but not Wendy, the woman told her I brought it out, no one answered for it so I've thrown it out. She asked Wendy Geale whether we were in a coach, no, we were at fruit tasting. Woman said, I've told them to ring me when coach coming & I'll make sandwiches, Wendy – We're not on a coach.

John and Gloria got banana bread 45 minutes later came their coffees and they were wrong. John & Greta got their coffees, then raisin toast, I stole some from John I was very hungry. Norm said to woman, 'I only ordered a milkshake & a citrus tart'. She said 'You'll have to wait you can't expect that many of you to come in here & be served quickly'. This was over an hour later. Then out came Joy's tart. The man brought my coffee and Norm said 'I only wanted a milkshake' The man apologised profusely then looked at me 'I ordered a sandwich' 'What did you want on it'; slightly hysterical by this time I said. 'Cheese and tomato' 'Oh you wanted ham, cheese & tomato toasted', then apologised again. 2 hours later

Norm and I had our order. Another 4 or 5 people came in, I could hear woman owner saying oh no, oh no. I felt like saying **run, run**. Gloria decided they should close up and join us on the road as they were obviously grey nomads. They were both oldish and he was decidedly dodderly, but at least he was pleasant. We didn't see much of Mission Beach only the inside of a very odd café.

Roy got back to park, and went up the road to pub for a few beers, or as Pam and Jill say few schooner burgers.

This 82.5 Newsletter is an in between Newsletter hence no Birthday List etc

September General Meeting is Sunday Week 15th September 2013

Remember to wear your Name Badge to be eligible to win the Free Lunch draw

Check that your name is correctly listed on the Trip List Sheet.

2013 LIST OF TRIPS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TRIP DESTINATION</u> | <u>MEMBERS ATTENDING</u> | <u>CONTACT</u> | <u>PHONE</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| Sep 4 - 8 ⁿ | SANDBAR Fishing/Golf | Henry, Smith, | T/L Smith | 4945 8443 |
| 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, Fletcher, Majchrowski, Shoobert, Stevens, Thomas | C/P Stevens | 4369 2759 |
| Oct 1 st - 7 | TRIBUTE TO STAN COSTER | Cooper, Cotton, Howard | 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 TO BOOK | Angell,Bickley, Brewer, Brown,Clarke, Cooper, Crocker, Curnow, Davies,Ducker,Haberfield,Hansell,Henry,Hoff, Howard,Insull, Kane, Kingma,Laney, Lee-Sing,Lindsay, Luttrell, Marsland, McGillicuddy,McKenzie,Moore,Oaks, Palmer, Pollard, Reilly S/A, Rohwer,Russell B/T,Russell M/R,Ryan, Sawsam,Shoobert,Smith, Smyth,SteellC, Steele L/K,Stewart,,Thomas B/L, Wells,Williams Williamson | Committee | |

2014 LIST OF TRIPS

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------|--------------|
| Feb 6 (for 7 nts) | HAPPY HALLIDAYS 1800 555 454 | | Committee | 1800 555 454 |
| Feb 13 -19 | SHOAL BAY | Henry, Stevens | C/P Stevens | 4369 2759 |
| Mar 6 th -13 | SANDBAR FISHING COMPETITION | Bickley,Brown, Cooper, Curnow, Ducker, Insull, Kinnell,Latham, Lee-Sing,Lindsay,Majchrowski, Reilly, Shawcross, Stewart, Webster | V/D Kinnell | 4390 8933 |
| Mar 7 th – 9 th | STATE RALLY | | Secretary | 4353 9069 |
| Apr 13 – 21st | HARTWOOD COUNTRY MUSIC/BUSH CAMPING | | C/P Kane | 4333 9738 |
| Apr 25 th – 27 | BOGGABRI DROVERS CAMPFIRE WEEKEND (go straight from Hartwood) | Brewer, Cooper, Crocker,Curnow, Majchrowski, Ryan, Russell, Shoobert, Sommerville | K/S Crocker | 4923 1493 |
| Apr 28 – 5 May | LIGHTNING RIDGE | Brewer, Crocker, Kinnell, Shoobert, Thomas | ?? | |
| | | | | |

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