

NORM AND GLENDA'S BIG TRIP NEWSLETTER #15 – last one!

Is it warming up down south yet – could someone please flip the switch before we arrive back? We are officially 'heading home' and expect to arrive in Canberra around 5-7 September. The Gold Coast lived up to the slogan – beautiful one day, glorious the next and the six weeks we were there flew by. We really did not do much in the way of sightseeing – we just enjoyed the rest and relaxation.



Above - I do hope the surfer was taking the dog for a ride and not using him for shark bait! The two parrots are very alive – we just could not work out if they were play fighting or having a cuddle!

The last time we were up here there were at least 20 gigantic cranes on building sights around the Gold Coast. Whilst we are not fans of high rise buildings it was very nice to see that all the cranes are gone and the buildings are finished – for now. We understand there are a couple of more high rises approved for building. Some of those already there are pretty impressive (from the ground) but anything over about 5 floors is more than I like.



Tallebudgera Caravan Park is about 15 minutes south of Surfers so it is quiet but within easy access to all the attractions of the Gold Coast. It is also only about 20 minutes from Tweed Heads/Coolangatta. As I said, we did not do a lot of sightseeing this time as we are coming back next winter before travelling further north to Rockhampton for the National Rally. We picked up a number of travel brochures for Queensland from the Information Centre so that we can plot our course over the summer in Canberra. We are planning to leave Canberra in early June again and we are hopefully going to be able to book in with Tallebudgera CP for the month of July – they do not take bookings for next winter until 1 October. We met some lovely people in the park who stay here every winter and hopefully we will see them all next year.

Toowoomba – we had our first tyre ‘casualty’ of the trip on the way to Toowoomba.

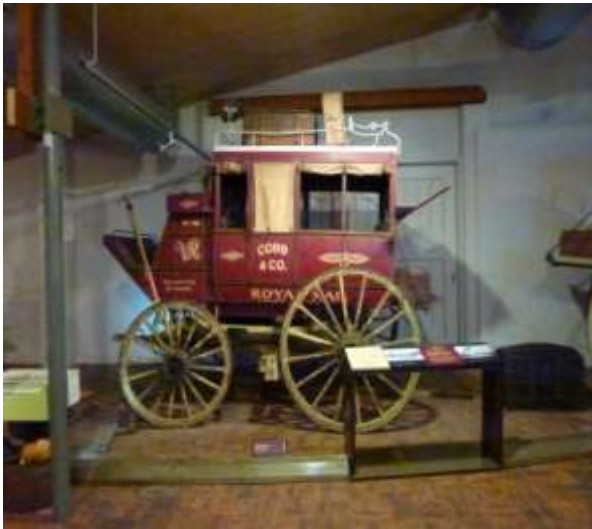


We asked the fellow at Beaurepaire if he thought he could repair the tyre – he was not too hopeful! Thank goodness for dual axle on the caravan – all we heard was a pop and Norm was able to slowly move to a safe place to stop.

Picnic Point is a lovely lookout with fabulous views, however, the restaurant is quite expensive and the coffee terrible!



We are leaving most of the sightseeing in this area for next year but we did visit the Cobb & Co Museum – it is well worth the visit and has some wonderful displays.



We stopped in Armidale and Dubbo for a couple of days but really did not do much – we came to the conclusion that we are both looking forward to coming home (despite the cold) and really just want to get there. The scenery is just beautiful driving through NSW at this time of the year – the Canola fields are in full bloom, as is the Wattle (pass the tissues please!).



We have really enjoyed our travels and we hope you have enjoyed your armchair travels via our newsletter. We met a lot of lovely and interesting people, saw some wonderful places and, we made some friends that we hope to catch up with from time to time in the future. We did keep a spreadsheet of major expenses (food, diesel and accommodation) for the twelve months travel from Merimbula back to Merimbula and, if anyone is interested we would be happy to share that information. It might be useful for anyone planning/budgeting for a similar trip. Word of advice – don't just talk about it, do it – while you can!

Cheers and happy travelling to all.

Norm and Glenda