



Photo: A tuff day at the office...Myall Lakes.

Our trip before Moreton Island

Day 1 - Burkey and I left Benalla at 10.30am. We drove to Lake Lyall which was our first stop for the trip. Arriving at 8.00pm we set up camp for two nights. It was a VERY cold night and we went to bed after a quick dinner. Fortunately, that day, I had snuck in the stores on our way out and bought an.....electric blanket. Yes, a beautiful, cosy, warm lecky blanky that was welcomed that night! Awaking to a world of white frost the next morning we found ourselves next to a beautiful lake.

Day 2 - we had breakfast and dinner cooked in the Weber bbq we had which was really yummy. Throughout the day we spent some time fishing and catching absolutely nothing. In the afternoon we saw a man who was having trouble with a lady at a nearby campsite. Thinking she was drunk Burkey valiantly went to assist but found she was a victim of a possible stroke. Calling me over, we stayed with her and her husband until the ambulance arrived and took her to hospital. Later that evening, Burkey had his first spat when he went for a shower. I had no problems but the big guy just didn't know how to work coin operated showers and came back cursing and covered in soap. He set up our shower off the Cruiser and swore it was the only shower he would ever use. Another cold night called for the electric blanket.

Day 3 - After decamping we headed to the Three Sisters. The views were amazing. We travelled across the Blue Mountains where we found the speed limits varied within meters which was very frustrating. The weather starting getting nice and warm in Pennant Hills and shortly after we crossed the mighty Hawkesbury River. Stunning! We arrived at Myall Lakes and set up camp.

Day 4 - awoke to a cacophony of birdsong at some ungodly hour. It sounded like a bird construction site with the rattle gun bird, the staple gun bird, the drill bird, the saw bird, the foreman bird etc. The birds were quite friendly and hung around near the camp with a brush turkey strolling through on occasions. We completed a rainforest walk and also walked on the beach which was only a short distance away. Burkey was unable to relax so ended up waxing the whole bloody Cruiser. Thanks Graeme Martin!



Day 5 - We decamped early and refuelled. Our next stop was at Springbrook NP. There were lots of road works and fluctuating speed limits. We stopped briefly at Coffs Harbour and took the touristy photo with the Big Banana. A quick snack and we continued on our way. Now....my



phone map was different to the map on the tablet. I followed my phone map which brought us to another area of the park. By this time it was pitch black. Our headlights beamed on a sign that read "2.5kms walk to the campsite". Needless to say it was not what we wanted to read! Following consultation with the tablet

map we arrived at our destination tired and crotchety. After 9 hrs of driving we both had dummy spits and were in bed by 7.30pm!

Day 6 - This was a wet wake up call. The rain was soft but constantly drizzling. Another lot of friendly birds who were not shy to come next to my foot. We visited several lookout points but the best one was, unfortunately, in cloud. The others were beautiful with babbling brooks and waterfalls and the scenery was superb. We were going to stay another night but decided to head to Brisbane. We joined Graeme and Helene at 3.30pm at the Big4 and set up camp for a few days, thank heavens!

Day 7 - Beautiful warm sunny weather! We collected supplies to take to the island and went to the Hogs Breath Café for dinner with Graeme and Helene where I cuddled the pig. Later, we played cards that night which had us all in stitches. A nice relaxing day was enjoyed.

Day 8 - Another relaxing morning with warm weather. We attended to the laundry and re-sorted and topped up our supplies some more. Graeme and Helene took us for a drive and showed us the island which could be seen from the mainland. Stopping at a seafood store it was mind boggling to see such a glorious array of fresh seafood. Graeme and Helene cooked up some tiger prawns, calamari, and a whole Moreton Bay Bug for me as a birthday gift. Absolutely delicious and way better than supermarket stuff. Thanks heaps Graeme and Helene. We played another card game with lots of laughs before hitting the sack.

Day 9 - We decamped and headed to the Port of Brisbane where all the rest of the gang members met up. Everyone set up basic camp on a strip of land next to the truck stop. Dinner and drinks were had and a birthday cake - yes, that's right, for me! Thanks guys. We all settled early for a sleepless night.

Day 10 - Well I don't think anyone slept well. Trucks were pulling in and going out, air brakes hissing, reverse beepers echoing through the night, headlights lighting up all our sleeping quarters and of course, the highway was nearby with traffic going past. Most of us were up and out of bed by 5.30am. Burkey and I were up at 4.30am. Our tent was on a slight slant and every time I woke up through the night I found myself at the bottom of the tent. After breakfast at the truck stop everyone packed up and headed to the Micat terminal at 7.00am. We all boarded and at 8.30am it was 'bye bye Brisbane' as we headed to Moreton Island.



Burkey and Kate

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