

A sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The water in the foreground is dark with shimmering reflections of the sun. In the background, there are silhouettes of buildings and trees against the bright sky.

# Forster New-Year getaway

We left for Lanis Holiday Island at Forster on Christmas Day to avoid the traffic. We left mid morning and with a few stops made Forster by about 2pm. We checked in and began setting up the camp. We had borrowed Glenn's camper for our friends to use, Glenn didn't need it as he was staying in a cabin at the other end of the park. They were coming later so I had two camp sites to set up – merry xmas me!





The trip was a cross over of club members and family friends all coming at different times and staying for different lengths. Our friends arrived later on Xmas day, Glenn and Margaret were also due to arrive Xmas day but can you believe it, Glenn was late – arriving at about 2am the next morning. He swears he didn't get lost but who knows?

The Fitzsimmons arrived a couple of days later – staying in their holiday home on the other side of the river in Tuncurry, but visiting and playing most days. Nathan and two of his friends families arrived about the same time as did Glenn's wife No. 2 & No. 4 (don't ask – too hard to explain). Most of the week between Xmas and New Years was spent in the water. We had a great week of weather; we drove onto Tuncurry beach where a number of vehicles needed multiple recoveries due to the soft sand. Happy to say I wasn't one of them and surprisingly neither was Glenn.

We also drove down to Sandbar where again you could drive straight onto the beach, so twice we visited the area, the first basing ourselves on the beach side of Sandbar, the second on the lake side of the sand. The kids were having a blast surfing, swimming and generally playing from dawn till dusk each day.

New Years from what I remember was fantastic. Mitchell, Lisa and friends drove up for a few days and we had a massive cook up with everyone joining us in camp for a feast and a party. As the night moved closer to the New Year, liquids flowed and memories became clouded – especially mine, but judging by the next morning's disaster – we must have had a great party.

Jack & Pam joined us late new years day with Kayaks on the roof and T-Van in tow. Everyone was a bit mellower after the previous night celebrations but we managed a modest happy hour and relaxed most of the night away. The Sunday saw Glenn finally get his boat wet down at Smith's lakes. We



were treated to tubing and rides in the boat as Glenn took everyone out in turn to have fun in the water.

The public holiday Monday saw most get ready to leave with Nathan and friends heading off mid morning. Mitchell and friends left lunch time, dropping Gis back home as she had to return to work, leaving me with the kids. Jack and Pam stayed a couple of more days, but the Fitzy's, Evans & Sweetnams saw the holiday to the end. We needed a holiday after everyone had left.

The weather had turned by then and we had more than a few days of rain. Despite this Connor and Zoe got time on their bikes each day, swam and played Margaret's iPad as often as I would let them. The last few days were nice and relaxing before I had no excuse and had to pack up to return home for my nephew's naming day.

Thanks to everyone who came up, it was a great holiday.

Ben

Participants (at various times)  
Ben, Gis, Connor, Zoe Sweetnam  
Glenn & Margaret Evans  
Peter & Shelly Fitzsimmons  
Jack & Pam Simpson  
Nathan, Aroha, Josh, Bradley Gilbert

Plus other family friends.

