



# Pub with no beer



### Participants:

Nigel & Vicky Ward – Trip Leaders  
Bryan & Susan Dixon  
Stan & Noelene  
Lenny, Katherine, Jonathan, Lachlan & Kieran

### Friday – 27<sup>th</sup> December 2013

We left home at 6:15 to meet up with Nigel and Vic in Gloucester. The plan was to meet up at the Gloucester Information Centre to leave as a group at 11am. We arrived early and quickly stopped in at Woolworths for a few supplies. We then met up with Nigel, Vic, Stan, Noelene and Lennie, Catherine, Lachlan, Johnathan and Kieran at the Information in Gloucester as planned. Brett arrived last, he should have been writing this report.

We left Gloucester for Wight's Hut, turning off at Thunderbolts Way, crossed over the Manning River Bridge in the Brett Nature Reserve, Giro State Forest and continued on Wrights Road through the Nowendoc National Park.

Arriving at Wright's Hut for lunch we had a quick look around and then decided it was too hot to start setting up, so a quick lunch and refreshments were started. No sooner you were out of your car and were greeted by flies. They were a right royal pain all weekend. We checked out the nearby creek where we saw a couple of resident red bellies and found a very nice swimming hole with waterfall. We sat on the rocks in the water. Eventually everyone setup and we then rolled into happy hour and dinner.

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013

We all packed slowly and were gone from Wrights Hut by 8:30 heading for Walcha to pick up our keys for Youdales Hut. We all did a bit of shopping in Walcha for fruit, coffee and off course Bryan had to, as a matter of urgency make a purchase of fly swatters which came into such good use over the weekend. Everyone had a go at killing flies.

We continued on to Apsley Falls in the Oxley Wild River National Park, which was a bit disappointing as there was not much water coming down. We decided therefore not to stop at Tia Falls and instead headed for our intended destination. Lunch was consumed at Mooraback Rest Area. Via Race Course Trail through the Oxley Wild River NP we eventually arrived at Youdales.

What a great area to camp and what made it even better was knowing that except for the flies, we had the place all to ourselves.

At Youdale's Hut, the same ritual was followed: lunch, refreshments followed by a swim and then when cooled down back up to camp to setup for the next couple of days. Bryan and Susan put up their Fox Wing for the first time under Vic's watchful eye. After dinner we enjoyed a chat around the fire.

It was dark already when Lennie sent the boys down to the loos to get ready for bed. The next thing Lachlan came beetling back saying that they had seen a snake. We thought they might be pulling our legs but Lachlan seemed to be a bit upset and immediately Lennie had the spotlights on and we all took off to investigate. There right near the loos on the short grass



in all its glory was a 2M Diamond Python. How the kids did not tread on him, I really don't know. After stomping our feet the snake eventually decided to slither off into the bush with a bit of a nudge at the end by Bryan's boot.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Bryan was up early on Sunday morning. On his way back from his morning wander he was greeted in song by Nigel, Vic, Stan and Noelene and the boys for his birthday.

We all enjoyed a lazy day, swimming in the river as it was an extremely hot day. We all had a great day, such a beautiful area and a very exclusive camp site.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2013

We all packed up and got ready to leave Youdales for Daisy Plains. We left Youdales and drove through the Werrikmbe National Park and Willi Willi NP and eventually after a couple of back tracks got to Daisy Plains. After lunch we went to Mary's View Lookout over the Macleay River for some stunning views. Then it was back to camp for cold showers (no river up there) and happy hour, dinner and bed. Stan, Noelene and Lennie, Catherine and the boys were able to claim cabins. Nigel, Vic and Bryan and Susan had to pitch tents.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

We were all up early to pack up to make our way to Taylors Arms – or more specifically The Pub with No Beer - for New Years Eve. We travelled downhill most of the day to Taylors Arms. After a quick stop on the Macleay River for a swim as well as lunch on the bank meant that we reached Taylors Arms mid afternoon. The scenery was absolutely spectacular.....such beautiful countryside.

Into the pub for a couple of refreshments, then back to camp to setup. The promise of a hot shower then beckoned. No such luck – Bryan and Susan were first and had hot showers. Lenny and the boys got cold ones as did Noelene, but Katherine and Nigel managed to get the furnace going somehow.

All cleaned up and it was back to the pub for dinner and more refreshments as well as a live band to see in the New Year. We tried to stay up until midnight but eventually called it a night an hour short.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – New Years Day

We all decided to pack up quite early. Nigel and Vic, Stan and Noelene were going up to a lookout from where Stan and Noelene made their way back to Sydney. Nigel and Vic headed off to see Nigel's family. Lennie, Catherine and the boys headed straight back to Sydney to get ready to leave for the Vic High Country on Saturday. Bryan and Susan decided to carry on to Sydney staying in Armidale and Tamworth.

We had a wonderful, memorable trip to The Pub with No Beer with great people and such good company, something we will never forget. It was one of the best New Years we have had since arriving in Australia.

Editor consolidated trip report from individual reports by Susan and Lenny.

