



AussieWideHealth



The Heart Beat of our Nation

KERRY'S KORNER

Good'ay Fellow Travellers

This year we are taking off from Townsville to Tennant Creek in a new rig. Due to unforeseen circumstances (bad decision by Mrs Navman), we had an unexpected event with the Coromal and a railway under bridge in NSW on our last trip. The damage to the Coromal ceiling, air conditioner, and sky lights was going to take months to fix, therefore we traded it for a Tooradin J2603.



This caravan is designed with aging in place with grip rails and a very well presented shower with built in seating. While designed in South Africa, the Tooradin is manufactured in Victoria. We have kept the Nissan Patrol Tow Vehicle as it is a sound towing vehicle since I have added the chip to increase fuel efficiency, a larger exhaust, heavier shocks and air bags, and a catch can to increase the turbo and intercool system.



Townsville to Tennant Creek **1400km**

Fuel: June 2013 between \$1.50 and \$1.90

With an average cost of \$1.67/L

Being the Nomad travel season it is best to book ahead if requiring a caravan site. We were unable to get a site at Richmond due to the many western activities currently occurring.

The roads are undulated and sometimes a challenge but much the same as other Qld roads.

For those interested in health and history a visit to the underground hospital and museum at Charters Towers. The wife (Minister for Finance and War), was in awe at the museum being quite embarrassed with the fact that she has used the majority of items during her nursing career.



Hospital entrance into Mountain



Hospital Museum



Men's Ward in underground tunnel

Caravan Park Fees at this time of year ranged from \$30.00 to \$35.00/night. We found the Top Tourist Caravan Park in Charters Towers a good option, with regular Bush Poetry and Scout Camp Kitchen enjoyable. Jack the Moodle gives this park high mark as a pet friendly stays. They have recently introduced the Pet Register in accordance with current council bylaws.



Free Camping Camooweal

We spent one night free camping 100ks west of Camooweal, before crossing the Northern Territory Boarder. Roads in this territory are certainly an improvement on those in other states. The speed limit is increased to 130km/hr, not that one does that when towing a large caravan.



Northern territory roads are always an improvement to Qld roads. Wider and more maintained. I am impressed by the way they build good side roads to use when building or repairing sections of the road. The side roads are as good as normal roads in other states, and it appears the main road repairs are built quicker and more streamlined when complete.



Coming into Tennant Creek, there are caves all along the mountains

The weather while cool at night is still hot during the day, with temperatures in high 20's. The dry dusty environment is less than pleasant, and of course the sticky flies are still here in the hundreds. I must admit, they are not as bad as when we were in Winton and other western Qld towns, where we had to wear fly nets over our hats. I have strong memories of sitting on the banks of a billabong in summer in Winton with our dinner plates up under the nets while shovelling my salad into my mouth to get the food before it was devoured by the flies.

We purchased fuel at The Three Ways before making the final 25km to Tennant Creek. Diesel was expensive here as was the \$10.00 plain hamburger. There are caravan sites and bunk house accommodation available at the Roadhouse, with us staying here on other trips.

We arrived in Tennant Creek where we had booked a site at the Tennant Creek Caravan Park. We stayed only a week (\$200.00), as it was very dusty dirt only sites. The park is very tired looking although there was plenty of hot water making showering a pleasure.

After speaking to people at the hospital we have moved into the Outback Caravan Park which we highly recommend. Please refer to our Satellite Map to find out more about this caravan park.



The Outback Caravan Park, Your Desert Haven in Tennant Creek

The town has a butcher and a small Food Works general store where you can get fresh fruit and vegetables on Thursday and Sunday. Food, bread and meat are expensive. There is a newsagent and chemist and an RFDS general practice clinic. There is a small hospital with an emergency department. There are no outpatient services as such and you need to be aware to plan for your health needs before coming through sites similar to Tennant Creek. Small towns do not carry a wide selection of medications to suit all conditions as it is not practicable or cost effective for these facilities. Refer to our Satellite Map for more information.

Remember to follow us online, and review and consider our Health Portfolio and Health Passport for Travelling Nomads

Stay safe, healthy and happy, and enjoy our great outdoors until next edition



Kerry

