

# New Year at Lowood

I had big plans to arrive early Wednesday morning (New Year's Eve) and set up before the day got too hot, but that didn't work, considering it was warming up by about 6am. On arrival at the Woolli residence I was pointed to the camping area. A sizable grassed paddock with some large trees overlooking the river. Nice place to take up residence for the next few days. A big old tank for the fire place and a large pile of fire wood cut and ready to go. This area of the property has been promptly named "Club Corner". Well done Woolli, but you may have trouble getting us to leave.

During the afternoon, more club members arrived and set up camp. Caravans, campers, jack off canopies, swags, we had it all. Even Woolli set up his camper and tents for the girls and their friends. The day was quite warm so we sort of made ourselves comfortable at the dam. We quickly realised with the shady trees and a slight breeze and the blow up floaty things, this was the place to be. Some expelled too much energy in the dam while others just relaxed and chin wagged. A few of us had a guided tour of Woolli's work shed before we got the yell that the pizzas had arrived. Didn't realise this was on, but much appreciated.

The evening was very warm but we finally settled around the fire place. The heat of the evening kept us well back from the fire and water guns, spray bottles and the hose were used to cool off during the night. I think everyone got a little wet at times but didn't complain too much. Most made it to midnight and celebrated the New Year in. 2015 is here already, Happy New Year everyone. Lots of well wishes and then many headed off to bed to try and get some shut eye. Next morning was a bit slow "it's not what you think" it was very hot and very hard to get motivated. That's our story and we're sticking to it! The dam and shady trees seemed to be a popular place again.

During the afternoon while some of the ladies watched a movie in the air-conditioned house, the boys went to play. Boys and their toys, you know what we're like. There is another paddock which Woolli wants to make into a four wheel play area. He led us around and showed it off. One corner is very wet which led into a mud hole. Woolli was game but the rest of us took a detour around. Matt realised it would be a lot easier if he put it in four wheel drive. He left tyre ruts the size of the Grand Canyon. We all managed to scrape through but Colin in his Jeep just didn't have the clearance of the rest of us. Yahoo a recovery, we don't do enough. Thanks Col, I know you just stopped to give us some practice.

We played on a couple of little jump ups before Grizzly decided he wanted to show off. Well about 10,000 revs, dirt and dust choking the atmosphere he finally clambered over the top. Needless to say the jump up just wasn't quite the same as it was prior to his adrenalin rush. The rest of us just didn't have the heart to show Grizzly up and that it really wasn't as hard as he made it look so we let him have his moment of glory. I am sure Grizzly will tell it differently, but who do you believe? Well with that hill turned to dust we decided to call it a day and head back for happy hour under the trees beside the dam. Some had a splash to cool off and some just got a thrill out of wetting me ("child").

Friday was another day and some just wouldn't leave. We finally convinced Woolli to burn that large pile of dead stuff near the house. Didn't really take much! Better have the hose ready just in case. Well a bit of woof starter and away she went. A bit more of a tidy up around the area and the flames went higher. Hey hang on there's more down there, more woof starter and we got another smoker. Better bring the hose down (safety first). About this time Woolli said "anymore". Sometimes we just have too much fun.

Friday afternoon was more playing for the boys. Back to the test paddock with the slasher and fun, fun, fun. Woolli slashed while the Grizzly and I tested. Grizzly pushed me into Matts Grand Canyons, no probs though, easy as, and the huge fallen tree at the end gave me a chance to test my winch out, (we don't do enough recoveries). A few logs amongst the long grass for a ramp over and some tyres found while slashing and we have the making of a good play area. Some boy talk with some crazy ideas to make this the best play area ever and..... Hang on, "where's Woolli?"

Next minute we see him coming through the gate in Missy (the farm ute) loaded up with some old house stumps, yay more obstacles. Another four or five Ute loads, a bit of sweat, a few squashed fingers and we have the makings of some good log slogs. Lucky we are having fun and not working. Even the rain didn't stop us! Linda came down to see what we were up too and Tracey just sat under the trees and closed her eyes every time Grizzly came around the corner. Anyway a little more testing and we decided it was time to call it quits (it was about 5.30pm). We gave Linda a couple of test runs (watch out for that stump in the long grass, and the camera man) before heading to the trees and dam for a breather and then hot dogs were served for dinner. Yummo!

Friday night we relaxed down in Club corner and reflected on a fun and exciting few days. Oh that's right the girls cooked up some pasta and delivered it to the camp area. I told you it's going to be hard to leave. Saturday morning we were going to pack up early-ish but the rain slowed us up a bit. That's our excuse and we're sticking to it. There was talk of leaving the camp accommodation there to give us a reason to come back but, we finally packed up and left Club Corner and the Woolli residence about 4pm.

Thanks Woolli, Linda, Deb and Sarah for your hospitality and for sharing your backyard, front yard, side yard, paddock, dam, trees, house (cor-blimey we went everywhere didn't we?). Thanks also to the Club members who shared in the activities and festivities. I am sure I can speak for everyone and say that a good time was had by all.

**Vince (Scooby)**

P.S. Please leave the gate open cause there is a very good chance that, I will be back.