

Well here we go again, another exciting & very interesting year behind us, some of which will go into further into this missive.

Dec; Caught up with Chrissy from the UK for a week at Sapphire beach for a week, lovely. Christmas with Jodi down in the Hunter wine region of New South Wales, wining & dining like there was no tomorrow, a Cadillac tour for Christmas most enjoyable, lovely escort as well. Great & that was about it for the year of 2015.



Jan; Just got out of the Hunter as the rain began to fall, & fall it did, it was as if it wanted to rid all trace of us being there & we weren't even the least bit naughty, in fact it tried to wash the whole damn place away. But a great time was had by all! We dropped Jodi off on our way through at Inverell. Then because of the rain we headed home via Warwick because the tide was coming in on the Macintyre River at Texas on the Qld border. CT scan to work out the belly ache, turned out to be a 16mm kidney stone so immediately into Greenslopes to sort it out, 2 goes a week apart and it was all done & dusted. Called in to see Stumpy (Kev) while I was in there, doing alright he was for a bloke with 2 short legs, oops sorry Kev.

Feb; Saw us on the road again heading for Barham down on the Murray, which divides N.S.W. & Victoria to catch up with friends & play a little bowls, mind you we had a small detour as one would! Via Inverell, a coupla 3 days with Jodi is always good for the brownie points. I got the echo cardiograph done in Cahuna in Victoria. Bonza lass told me that the old swinging brick (pendulum) for the uninitiated not to be confused with the 8 day clock, is still ticking along nicely. Wendy teamed up with her mates and got into the carpet bowls & bingo, even popped along for some lawn bowls with this old bloke as well & and who knows what else them girls get up to?

Mar; We got a call from Jodi that she needed a hand so we packed up and headed back to Inverell. Spent quite a bit of time swanning around like tourists and of course some bowling at the local club even went as far as a win, thanks mainly to a good partner. We I think more me made a huge decision, decided that we needed another member of the family, a dog! So we started looking for a replacement for CoCo.

Apr; We as in me again, finally settled on a breeder at Nanango, not far from home. Aileen (the breeder) called and said that she had 3 girls and 2 boys, if we got there in time we could have the pick of the litter. Mid month, and Jodi had had enough of us so we packed up the van and headed for home for flu needles and the normal round of Porsche payments. Anzac day we had in Jandowae this year instead of Boort in Victoria with the mob. We were blessed to have Dave and Elaine drop in for a couple of days, lovely folks, tried to make a bowler out of Dave, total failure but we sure did have some fun.



May; Adam and Ali called in for an overnighter on their way home from Boort, sounded like it was a great success. Wendy and I went over for a look at the pups and made a pick. The miniature rockweiler (Australian Silky Terrier for those who don't understand my humour) but she did look like a Rockweiler, was chosen and named Rosie! The decision was made that I needed to get something done about this hernia, which turned out to be a pair. Well a quick trip into Greenslopes and the job was done.

Jun; Away to Standown, picked up the Rosie on the way, jet black will change colour over the next year? Got to see the oncologist and things are still pretty stable in that dept. Great time catching up with everyone there, but like all good things we had to head for home.



Rosie the Rockweiler.

Views from Forest Beach pub

Jul; Mid July saw us heading to far north Queensland, as a good mate of mine has been diagnosed and hasn't got long so Wendy and I were heading up for a last farewell to Don, me old fishing mate. Camped at Forrest Beach Vanpark, right behind the pub, (bugger). Had to head for home and just missed his funeral, but raised a glass at the appropriate time, RIP old mate. Called in to say G'day to Adam & Ali on the way home, just what we needed.

Aug; Well here we are back in Coffs Harbour, 'Sapphire Beach Holiday Park', owned by Dave a great bloke. (advert) which is a great little van park about 8k north of Coffs, dog friendly right on the beach and doesn't have the problems of the parks in town! I think we can chalk this one up as a bit special a couple of reasons for this is as this stay was a bit longer than our normal couple of weeks because, 1. We broke a spring going over the Gibraltar Range and pulled the back axle out of the van, a little excitement there for a minute or two! Managed to drag it off the road far enough then had to cadge a ride into Grafton to get a tilt bed truck big enough to piggy back us into Coffs as this was the nearest place to get it repaired. 2. Our bi annual unit re union a bit special this year as it's 50 years since we took a cruise on the good ship HMAS Sydney from the Australian shores to South Vietnam for the holiday of a lifetime. Not a bad turn up for a great weekend catching up with folks that are spread all over this country. Little sister Joyce and Les caught up with us for a weekend, great catching up. Got some good news from the doc, she has passed another exam, that much closer to the GP thing.



Getting a piggy back into Coffs.

The shanangans after you lot went home.

Sept; We look like being here for a bit longer as they are having trouble getting parts for the van, looks like being all brand new from the chassis down to the bitumen. Guess that this isn't such a bad place to be stranded as the people here have been great. Aileen & Brendon's Beachstone cafe, within walking distance of the park along the beach with great food and service. Rosie just loved the walks on the beach. Great! 16th beauty, pick the van up today, get sorted and think about heading for home via Inverell naturally.

Oct; Home again, Eye Dr. Something new Wendy needs to get her cataracts done so we off to Toowoomba for that and check up with her heart girl at least all is fine in that Dept. What a month of changes had to empty the connex as well as moved it to its final resting place where it will become a workshop as well as storage, but the games begin as we go through all the boxes and bags etc, to make sure we are not storing stuff that we don't really need.





Some of the mess inside. Rosie. View from the outside, the inside. The connex after painting and some shelving.

Nov; Wendy's eye done, Rosie, her first time in the kennels, not sure they want her back! Patio roof finished paving down, all done, looks good. Bench & tool cupboard into Connex, needed some modifications, so that it would fit. Rosie got the snip. Wendy's results from her eye surgery, excellent. Down to Jodi's for a week for my birthday.

Dec; 8th, a call from the doc she needs another picture frame for her GP certificate, what a little ripper!!!

Oncology report for this old bloke? Well all's good nothing has changed so the next re union is looking good!

So to you all you good folks we wish one & all a very Merry Christmas and we hope that 2017 is a new and great year for all.

Take care Bloo, Wendy, Jodi & a slurp from Rosie