

# HUT GOSSIP

*Quarterly publication of Parkyn Hut Information Centre*

## *From the President's Pen*

.....

This is the hardest "President's Bit" I have ever had to write. I am, of course, writing this in a haze of tears and sadness. I am still finding it very hard to deal with the fact that our dear friend, George Pearce, has left us.

Maybe because it was just so sudden?

Elvie, Olive, June, George and I were all at a book launch together a few days before he went into hospital and he was his usual happy chatty self - even giving Elvie one of the biggest cuddles ever - she reckons she can still feel it!

Even after visiting George in hospital on the Tuesday that he passed away, I told him we would be back to visit him in a couple of days and really thought that I would have been.

When we visited, he was sitting up eating a 3-course meal which I told him would give the Royal Mail a run for their money.

George proceeded to give me detailed instructions of all the Hut business he wanted me to sort out for our AGM as well as making sure I went to pick up his contribution for this newsletter. We joked about the fact he was always so organised for meetings/newsletters, etc, yet I would race into the Hut on the day of a meeting with scribbled notes in hand, then spend the afternoon attempting to type them up on the computer, constantly yelling out to George to come and help me with this bloody computer!

I also had the chance to give George some cards which I read out to him. I gave him one from all of his mates at the Hut and told him we were all thinking of him, sending him our love and best wishes and hoping he would soon be back at the Hut with us, telling people where to go!

The card had a picture of the Noosa River at sunset on it and I told him it was to remind him of home and to encourage him to get back there as soon as he could.

I was so lucky to have had that opportunity to visit George in hospital and also to have my daughter and grand-daughter with me. We all got to tell him how much we loved him. During this visit my grand-daughter started calling him Prince George - so we told him we could make him a crown and bring it in next time we visited. Unfortunately we didn't get that opportunity.

Over the years, George has filled a big hole in my life and that of my daughters and grand-daughters - especially since losing my own parents and grand-parents.

It was so lovely watching George's face light up when the kids would come for a visit especially when they would arrive with a birthday cake, singing "happy birthday" to him. He loved watching their latest dance moves, applauding loudly. He was always interested in what they were all doing and at times telling ME what the kids had been up to, because he was friends with them on Facebook!!

His beautiful birthday and Christmas cards were always the first to arrive, chosen with love and written with kind words.

There are just so many things that we are going to miss about George. His name will always be written in our hearts. At least he is now with his beautiful Joan whom he missed so much.

If it wasn't for Joan and I volunteering to sell raffle tickets together almost 20 years ago to raise money for our newly formed Heritage Society, we may never have had such a special and long-lasting friendship. So, there is a lot to be said for volunteering to help your community!

I just want to take this opportunity to thank all of my dear Hut friends - past and present - for their love, support and kind words during this incredibly sad time.

... Gail McBurney

## World Tourism Day in 2017 - the decade of the digital traveller. What's next for the tourism industry?

Tourism operators around the world are embracing digital technology and digital transformation of small tourism businesses is on the increase. On World Tourism Day the founders of Tourism Tribe are excited by the results they can see in the data they collect about Australia's digital capability.

In 2017, over 50% of Australian tourism businesses offer consumers the ability to book online with an instant confirmation and over 90% of Australian tourism businesses have got a Facebook business page. This is a significant leap forward from where we were five years ago and puts Australia ahead of other destinations.

A recent trip to France and Italy confirmed that the level of investment the Government and regional tourism bodies have put into educating Australian tourism businesses about utilising digital marketing has really paid off.

"I could not book online with an operator directly once over a 4-week period in Europe said CIO Fabienne Wintle. Their websites are either non-existent or not mobile friendly and they do not seem to actually know they could use a booking button. I had to rely on tools like [Booking.com](http://Booking.com) and Airbnb companies that have invested millions into ensuring their customers' online experience is exceptional. Business owners were also so surprised when we explained that Australian tourism businesses receive funding and training to learn how to meet the requirements of the online consumer. Here there is nothing like that said an accommodation and tour operator from Sardinia, Italy.

As a digital marketer, it is really frightening to see how tourism operators of two of the iconic tourism destinations seem to be left behind. Australia started addressing the digital gap over 12 years ago through initiatives like the Australian Tourism Data

Warehouse and the Tourism ekit and it took a decade for the results to pay off. Tourism is 100% lead by the digital consumer and the majority of Australian tourism operators now appreciate that and are more receptive to adopting digital technology and continuing to learn how to improve their businesses".

The founders of Tourism Tribe have not only been providing education and support to the industry through the award-winning online learning hub [www.TourismTribe.com](http://www.TourismTribe.com), but also capturing an enormous amount of data about the digital capability and transformation of the industry. They benchmark this data against best practice, sectors and destinations.

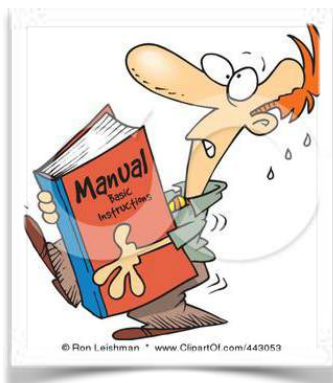
Tourism Tribe have been instrumental in supporting various state governments and tourism regions with programs and initiatives aimed at building online capacity for their industries. The latest ones were the [Best of Queensland Experiences benchmarking model](#) and [Tourism Northern Territory's Digital Leap program](#) which includes a consumer-centric digital assessment with key recommendations to embrace the digital economy.

"We can see from the data and our continual engagement with industry that there is still a long way to go to get the majority of industry to a standard that aligns with consumers' expectations and we recognise variations in regions and sectors, but there is no doubt that the dial has shifted in terms of tourism operators' understanding of the importance of digital and their appetite for learning", said Tourism Tribe's CEO Liz Ward.

"What's next? The opportunities and challenges coming down the line for tourism operators are pretty exciting and mind-boggling at the same time. Applications based on artificial intelligence that personalise the travel purchase experience are going to be game changers for all players in the industry, wearable tech and the device and content requirements of millennials are going to keep us all on our toes when it comes to keeping up with technology. It's never going to be over, now that we're in the digital age we have to keep learning and adopting if we want to stay in business", said Wintle.

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## " From the Training Department ... "



Thank you everyone for your participation in our first Quiz. Some interesting responses, but overall it was good to see our procedures are being followed.

Generally it was not known that we close on three days each year, these being Christmas, Anzac and Noosa Tri. Open every other day.

This then begged the question of "where is the key when the RSL is not open?".

Answer: Make arrangements the day before or alternatively June Colley has a spare.

And to keep our Treasurer happy, please place all **postcard money in the wooden donation box**. Plastic box on the bench is for small purchases such as milk and coffee, metal tin in the draw is for membership fees.

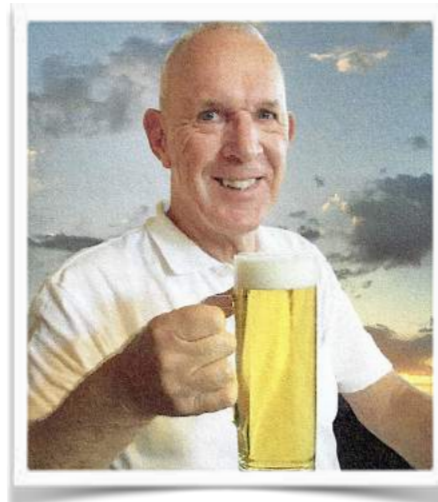
Keep an eye out for our next Quiz ... bet you can hardly wait!!

# VALE GEORGE PEARCE



**You have written your name in many hearts  
'Prince' George and it will remain there forever.**

Don't write your name in the sand,  
waves will wash it away  
Don't write your name in the sky,  
the wind may blow it away.  
Write your name inside the hearts of  
people you come in touch with,  
That's where it will stay!



**Gone, but not forgotten**

# REMEMBERING BOB LIPTON

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Bob. Bob was an interesting, informative member of the volunteer team. Bob had a great rapport with visitors and picked accents very well. As he had lived in many different countries, he often had a friendly discussion with our visitors and created a warm friendly atmosphere for them. Once Bob came on duty complete with a tall broom to remove the cobwebs from the building and even removed all the leaves that had collected around the flower pots. A very likeable person who will be missed by many.

... Helga

On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, six volunteers attended the funeral of Robert ("Bob") Lipton, who passed away on the previous Saturday after a long battle with cancer.

Bob was a very knowledgeable and well-travelled man who spoke three languages, and it was always a pleasure to share a shift with him. Even during his illness, he enjoyed working at Parkyn's Hut. He will be sorely missed.

... Keetha

## Vale Robert (Bob) Lipton

It is with sadness that we advise of the recent passing of Robert (Bob) Lipton after a lengthy battle with cancer. Bob was the co-founder of International Cargo Express (ICE) with Peter Timmerman and also became a Director of AFIF. In recent times Bob lived on the Sunshine Coast near Noosa.

## *Six of the best with*

### *Elizabeth McDonald*

**Q1. Where do you originate from?**

*I call Hobart my home town, went to school and first job there and had a view of Mt. Wellington every day walking to school.*

**Q2.**

**What do you like to do to relax or chill out?**

*Walk in our local park or the river, nice to do every day and meet others for a chat. Play rummy with friends*

**Q3. Where are your favourite local places to eat?**

*There are so many cafés and places I love to eat out at. I love the Boat House on the river and also the Yacht Club which has fab views up and down the wonderful Noosa River. I also like going to the RSL and local pubs. The view over the Noosa Golf Club is special too.*

**Q4. Share a great local experience that you have enjoyed?**

*Potters Pantry or the Marina..*

**Q5. Name 3 of your favourite places to visit, or things to do locally?**

*Trips on the river are the best and the trip on the Noosa Queen in the evening stand out*

**Q6. What do you love about living here?**

*Walk up Mt. Tinbeerwah, Line Dancing on Friday morning, Pomona Saturday market, Farmers Market on Sunday morning.*

## COOROY FARMERS AND ARTISANS MARKET

### **New market for Cooroy supports local farmers and artists**

The Cooroy Farmers and Artisans Market has announced their first market will be on Saturday 7 October from 6am to noon at Lower Mill Road Cooroy. Markets will be held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays of each month.

These farmers market with an artistic twist will have stalls with local produce and value-added products including sauces and pickles, "Made in the Biosphere" products from artists in the Noosa and Great Sandy Straight Biospheres, food stalls and entertainment.

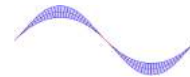
Stall space will be donated at each market to a community group to use as a fundraiser and/or to raise awareness.

The market supports local growers and artists and highlights the diversity of produce and talent in our region. It will showcase Cooroy and bring people into town who will hopefully also visit other retailers. It will activate the vacant land at the Mill Site Precinct and has great ties with the Butter Factory Arts Centre, the Cooroora Woodworkers and Cooroy Camphor Laurel Inc which all have examples of local artisans on display.

For more information or to register your interest as a stallholder, see the website below.

Contact Details:

[www.cooroymarket.com.au](http://www.cooroymarket.com.au)

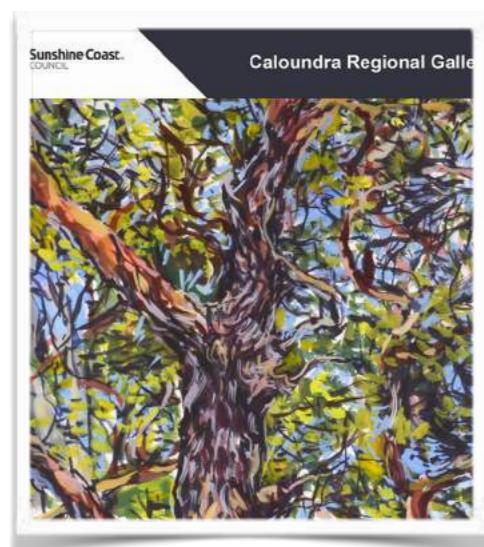


## Caloundra Regional Gallery

### **Local Artists - Local Content Art Prize 2017**

#### **Caloundra Art Gallery**

**Exhibition Dates:** 11 October - 5 November 2017



# Was that Mabel singing “Happy Birthday” ?



JIM FAGAN x

*"Quiet please. Please, a bit of silence at the back there. Our Mabel is going to sing for us."*

It's at the turn of the last century and Mabel Cox, the young soprano, whom the great Dame Nellie Melba has described as gifted and should go to London for training, starts to sing a Puccini aria. Her audience is enchanted.

Mabel was the daughter of proprietor Richard Cox and, standing today in the hoop pine-walled Music Room of the Apollonian Hotel at Boreen Point, it isn't hard to imagine Mabel delighting the rowdy gold miners and local Gympie worthies who crowd the pub to hear her.

Photos and memorabilia of her fill one wall. Among them are letters and birthday cards from First World War Diggers ... clearly, she was a pin-up girl in her day ... certificates from Trinity College School of Music in London and letters from famous prima donnas of the time.

It all lends to the atmosphere of history which permeates this 135-year-old hotel built in Gympie in 1879 and transported in 1985 to its site in Laguna Street, Boreen Point by its owner, Neil Paynter.

Gold was discovered in Gympie by James Nash in 1867 and within 10 months an English comedian, Billy Barlow, had built "Barlow's Apollonian Philharmonic Music Hall Hotel" and, as Neil told me, staged elaborate performances of vaudeville, variety shows and singing round the piano ... a sort of karaoke of the time.

Other owners followed, all retaining the attractions of lively entertainment plus billiards contests, wrestling matches and dances, a tradition that continues at Boreen Point today with impromptu jamming in the front bar, Sunday spit roasts and some of Queensland's top bands playing on the front lawn.

In early 1879 the hotel, opened by Barlow twelve years previously, was destroyed by fire and the hotel we know as the Apollonian was built.

Neil is a former Melbourne demolition contractor and house removalist who came to Noosa to live in 1984.

*"I met up with architect Simon Reid who wanted to build a hotel at Boreen Point and we travelled a lot looking at old pubs mainly to get an idea of a style of hotel we wanted to build as we didn't want a brick tavern."*

*"We saw the Apollonian which was being used as a storeroom by a Gympie building company who had plans to develop the site. We were lucky the building had never been altered or renovated and was in good original condition. Initially, we thought we'd buy it for its beautiful cedar doors and windows but I had been involved in demolition and house removal so we decided to shift the whole building holus bolus."*

Neil said he spent a week in the Gympie Library reviewing the history of the hotel and the more he got into the story, the more he realised what a fascinating and beautiful old building it was.



I mentioned to Neil that I had been told Mabel's presence could still be felt in the hotel, that at least two former staff members had at times seen a spectral figure silhouetted in the hall lights leading to the Music Room.

*"I'm a bit of a sceptic," said Neil, "but it is true we were told in Gympie about the ghost when we moved the building."*

# PARKYN HUT 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY MEMORIES



## Awards

## Awards



## Parkyn's Hut 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash



As in past years, we celebrated this wonderful occasion on the Noosa Ferry, and **President, Gail** had done a wonderful job pulling it altogether.

About 45 Vollies and partners enjoyed the river and the sumptuous afternoon tea and refreshments along with the companionship of other Vollies

We took this opportunity to recognise the Vollies who have contributed to The Hut for extended terms including ....

**Thelma, Liz and Sonya**, all of whom have signed on for more than 15 years

The **Amazing Volunteer Award** was this year given to our **Secretary, Wendy** for her secretarial skills in keeping our organisation on track but primarily for her publishing of the quarterly Hut Gossip. Thank you Wendy!

Other recognition awards were made to **Peter Chard** and **Terry and Yolande McIntyre** for their attendance on the weekend roster over long periods.

Thank you to the Noosa Ferry Co for making this available each year and to the many local businesses who provided goods and vouchers for prizes and awards. Remember to shop locally where possible and thank the traders for their support

Thank you also to those Vollies who contributed food for afternoon tea, it was so delicious.

... Davina Rossiter



## 9 spots on the Sunshine Coast to take your breath away

by [Leonie Prendeville](#) courtesy of [Urban List](#) 23 May 2017

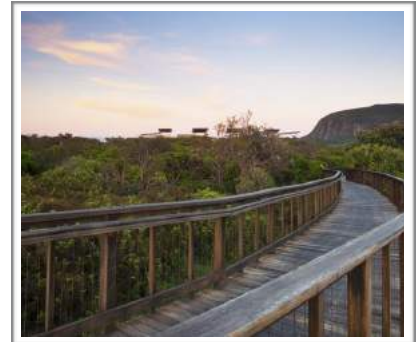


**Living on the Sunshine Coast basically means we're spoilt for choice when it comes to natural wonders ... it's the choosing part that's the tough bit!**

So we've done the narrowing down for you. Here are nine epic spots that will take your breath away, stop you in your tracks, sweep you off your feet, leave you awestruck, gob smacked, and all kinds of other fabulous clichés.

### **1. Full moon rise on the grassy knoll at Coolum**

On the next full moon head to the Coolum Boardwalk and around halfway between the surf club and Point Perry a set of stairs will lead you off the path and onto a sweet little grassy knoll. Take a picnic blanket and a bottle of wine and enjoy yourself some fine full moon gazing with absolutely nothing (no fences, no obstructions) between you, the rocky cliff edge, and that big ol' rising luna.



### **2. Hells Gate**

Okay, okay, so everyone who's anyone knows that a trek to [Hells Gate](#) is one of the best things to do in [Noosa](#). But when was the last time you actually ventured there, huh? This is some of the best coastal viewing around, if you haven't done it recently, get your butt there. Stat!

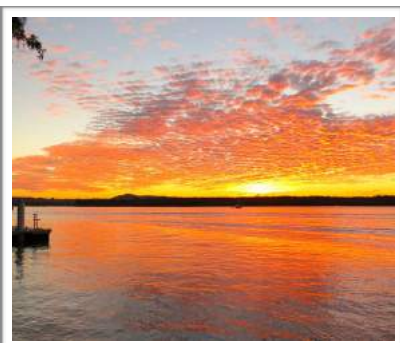


### **3. Star gazing from Mount Tinbeerwah**

Navigating a mountain at night can be risky business, however Mount Tinbeerwah in [Tewantin National Park](#) is fairly easy as far as mountain hikes go. You'll need a torch to get to the top, but once you're there switch it off and simply look up. Mind-blowing, breathtaking, and possibly one of the best things to do on the Sunshine Coast. Especially if you're on the hunt for romantic date idea

### **4. Serenity Falls**

Buderim's best but not-so-well-kept secret swimming spot has got to be Serenity Falls. Explore [Buderim Forest Park](#)—make sure you wear swimmers under that active wear—and finish off with a dip in the rock pool. Best bit? If it has rained, you can re-enact those Decore shampoo commercials under a waterfall. Insta-famous video right there!



### **5. Sunset at the Noosa River**

Sometimes photos make things look better than they actually are. When it comes to sunset over the Noosa River along Gympie Terrace in [Noosaville](#), we're yet to find a photo that does it justice. Get yourself there, you'll see what we mean. Oh and don't forget there's plenty of free barbecues along the waterfront, so pack the snags!

## 9 spots on the Sunshine Coast to take your breath away (cont'd)

by [Leonie Prendeville](#) courtesy of [Urban List](#) 23 May 2017

### 6. Mount Ngungun

Sunrise, sunset, midday... No matter what time of day it is from the top of [Mount Ngungun](#) in the [Glass House Mountains](#) National Park, it's friggin spectacular. Don't believe us? Stalk [#mtngungun](#) on Instagram and see for yourself.



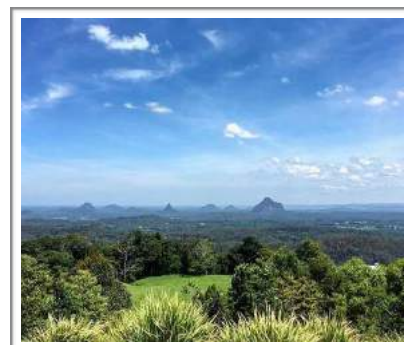
### 7. Third Bay Coolum Beach

Definitely a lesser known spot, Third Bay at [Coolum Beach](#) is rarely ventured to. The thing is, those who do go there, do so with pride. Like, so much pride that they may tend to forget their clothes. But if you can deal with a handful of naked humans, this spot is magical. We recommend starting at First Bay, meandering over the rocks to Second Bay, and then eventually to Third Bay. The 15 minute walk takes you around rock pools galore and all kinds of oceanic goodness.



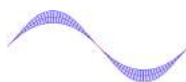
### 8. Sunrise at basically any beach

In case you haven't noticed, we have an abundance of east-facing beaches, which means we get front row seats to one of nature's five-star shows every single day—the sun rise. All you have to do is set your alarm super dooper early (it's worth it, we promise), head to a beach of your choice, and let the show begin.



### 9. Blackall Range Tourist Drive

Want a boatload of breathtaking spots in one day? Jump in the car, take to the Blackall Range Tourist drive and prepare to be wowed over and over and over again. Left the packed lunch at home? Never fear! We know where to find [the best eats in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland](#).



### Thought for the day

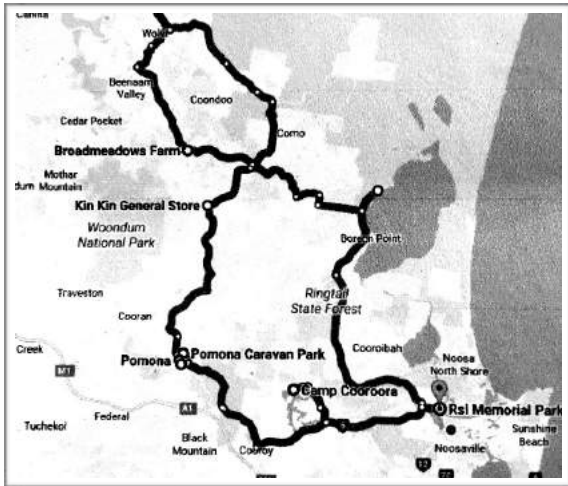
*When the mind is at peace,  
The world too is at peace.  
Nothing real, nothing absent.  
Not holding on to reality,  
Not getting stuck in the void,  
You are neither holy or wise,  
Just an ordinary fellow  
Who has completed his work.*

**P'ang Yün – 8th century Zen**

## NORTHERN LOOP FAMILIARISATION TOUR

Sep 5, 2017

(with thanks to Helga Thiermann and Bill Barry)



On a perfect day in Queensland spring, 14 vollies set off on a country drive in the RSL bus with driver Tony to explore the area north of Noosa.

### ELANDA POINT EDUCATION CENTRE & ADVENTURE PARK

We started off with an inspection of the 26 hectare Elanda Point Education Centre & Adventure Park on Lake Cootharaba, which Discovery Tours owner Wade Batty has just purchased. He kindly gave us a tour of the premises, telling us about his vision for the property and how he wants to open it for a broader up-market segment with a bistro, bar and modern cabins. There are already school camp huts and an activities hall on the property.

A new jetty is planned from which tours to the Everglades in smaller, flat boats will be conducted. However, some of the new developments are still subject to Council/State approval. Our historian George thought it should stay as it is: - simple camping only! It costs \$20 per night (up from \$12 previously) for an unpowered camp site with heaps of space. To this date, it has never been fully booked out for camping.

It can be recommended to nature-loving backpackers on a small budget when Noosa is booked out. Elanda Point is the gateway to the Everglades, and all sorts of boat/canoe tours are available. A positive development is that the new owner will replace the off-putting "Do not enter if you haven't paid the fee" with "Welcome" signs!



### COOLOOLA BERRIES STRAWBERRY FARM

Our next stop was at Cooloola Berries strawberry farm, a family-run business on Tagigan Rd in Wolvi, where we enjoyed a most delicious morning tea with pancakes, scones, ice cream and, of course, fresh strawberries.

Owner Jason informed us that their main business is not growing strawberries but catering for a growing number of locals and tourists (at Gympie, not Noosa, prices!)

The farm currently has 85,000 strawberry plants. Well worth a visit! They are open every day except for a 3-week break around Christmas.





## BROADMEADOWS ALPACA FARM



We then travelled on to Broadmeadows Alpaca Farm in Kin Kin where the very industrious owner Maureen gave us a very informative tour of the property, with plenty of freshly-shorn alpacas keeping us company.

There is a lot of work involved in running an alpaca farm, marketing the alpacas' fleece, and very caring and enthusiastic people such as Maureen and her husband make it happen.

Maureen also teaches people who want to keep alpacas as pets or for farming the right way to do it. She also teaches alpaca wool spinning. It was a highlight for many of us to feed these lovely animals. Open on Saturday afternoons.



## LUNCH AT THE KIN KIN GENERAL STORE

And then, on to lunch at the Kin Kin General Store. There are a lot of new houses in Kin Kin, and Jodie welcomed us to the General Store. They have quite a fancy menu; all meals were well-presented such as Thai Spiced Barra Wrap or Pork Burger with Activated Charcoal Enriched Bun (with a funny colour!), and all with salad. The chips and aioli that we shared around were really nice.



## POMONA CARAVAN PARK



Back on the road we next inspected Pomona Caravan Park at the Pomona Showgrounds. This is open all year except during the Pomona Show in September, and can take up to 500 guests. Charles showed us around. It costs \$23/day for an unpowered site and \$29/day for a powered one.

Friendly dogs are most welcome (very big ones, too, when all they want to do is cuddle). There is a dog park close by, and from there it is an easy stroll to the township. There are beautiful views of Mount Cooroora from the camping ground. This is highly recommended for Grey Nomads travelling with pets, and is about 30 minutes from Noosa.

## COOROORA SCOUT CAMP

On the way back to Tewantin we had a quick look at Cooroora Scout Camp, where Karen and her mother showed us around. When not used by scouts, the camp is available for general camping. They charge per person, not per vehicle. It costs \$12 per person per night unpowered, and \$15 powered.

Nice dogs are welcome on leash. Lake Macdonald is next to the Camp, but no swimming is allowed because the lake is the drinking water supply for Noosa. However, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and boats with electric motors are permitted. Lots of fish though (who pee in it!). You need a permit to fish. Lovely place, very peaceful. You can walk to Noosa Botanical Gardens in about 20 minutes.



We had a wonderful day in lovely company out in the sun! Thank you, Davina, for doing a fantastic job of organising it all!



## And finally ....

Just last week, Jane Harding from Noosa Library, sent Gail these recent photos of George.

The first, Gail with flowers, was taken at the Pioneers Luncheon in August when George presented her with this lovely bouquet and thanked her for all her help and friendship over the years which moved Gail to tears.

The other two were taken at the launch of the book "Noosa Remembers" which tells the stories behind Noosa's much-loved WWI memorials including the halls, parks, monuments, honour board, rotunda and swimming baths that pay (or paid) tribute to those who served in World War I,

