

## Berry to Hillston

### *Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October*

Bit of a change of plan. On Wednesday Sue had emailed me and reminded me where the key to the house was and said they'd be there late Friday. I was looking forward to having a quiet day with them on Saturday before leaving on Sunday.

But Friday morning I got an email saying they were arriving that afternoon with two children and the parents would be following later – obviously a family weekend. I would have been welcome to stay but decided to get out of their hair and about 3pm headed off. It was up through Kangaroo Valley to the Hume Highway, then Goulburn, Crookwell, Rugby, Boorowa, Harden, and towards Temora. Wasn't quite sure if I'd stop and camp or drive all the way to Hillston. I stopped a couple of times where there was cheap diesel to top up – one place was 12 cents a litre cheaper than some of the places in Nowra. And in fact Berri was cheaper than Nowra.

Then just after the sun went down but before it was completely dark I came into a small place that I didn't even see the name of but there was a rest area there with Campervans in it so I stopped. It was about 2 acres of grassy lawn and I picked a spot and camped. It was on the junction of 2 highways but the traffic during the night was not excessively loud and didn't bother me. I even heard a train faintly.

### *Saturday*

I discovered I was in the shire of Cootamundra at a place called Wallendbeen, certainly a good overnight stopping place.

I cruised on with the speed limiter set at 90kph – through West Wyalong, Lake Cargelligo, to Hillston where I camped in my usual spot for two nights. There were some obstructions on the way.



Very peaceful and relaxing. There was a green parrot nesting in a hollow tree a few metres from where I was parked. But its mate was a dull grey/brown and I've never seen this before. Usually parrots are very similar. The flitted in and out of the hole too fast to get a really good look at them and I don't have my bird book with me so will have to check when I get home. It could have been a chick but seemed to be flying too well and fast. But I got a close look at these.



This is the map of Hillston with my spot marked with a red X.





It is a lovely little town with tiled footpaths.





Bit of a bummer after that. I knew the batteries in the camera were getting low but it still gave every indication it was still taking photos OK – but it wasn't. And I didn't find out till I tried to download them Monday night at the Edward River.

A couple of peaceful nights with a good fire, listening to the crickets, and fish jumping, and a couple of mopokes. One night I could hear an animal creeping up behind my chair but it was only an Echidna

There are open toilets at the bowling green that I go past walking into town.

I moved on Monday morning.