

Avoca

Friday 26th

Sat up till after 10pm last night.



Fairly cool morning at Kara Kara, even in bed. I put my overalls on and jacked the car up to see what damage I did on the Ford's Bridge Rd weeks ago to cause the ESP light to be permanently on. It is extensive with metal brackets bent and plastic things broken in pieces. There were also the ends of three wires hanging down. Obviously these are not essential for the driving of the car so I may never get them repaired – looks expensive.

It was a bit disappointing to find there was no water on site here, as there always has been before. There are a few taps through the camping area but they were all dry, and of course the flushing toilets weren't flushing – but people had continued to use them anyway.

I'm meeting some good friends in Melbourne on Sunday so need a shower before then so packed up and headed off towards Ballarat, thinking I'd find something not too expensive (not camping) for a couple of nights. I stopped at Avoca to check online but Ballarat seemed to be booked out – must be something going on this weekend. I searched online for here in Avoca but nothing in my price

range. So then I drove into the caravan park and asked – they had cabins for \$85 per night so I'm here for two nights. I might add it is one of the nicest cabins I've been in.

Nice camp kitchen and nice toilet block but I don't think I'd want to camp here – that area was a bit bare. I did swap a couple of books from the book exchange in the kitchen. But you don't see many of these old metal vans about these days.



The Peugeot has performed admirably, but is certainly a bit low for Australian outback roads. Even the Pulsar had more clearance than this. I did check with Pedders before coming but they don't have anything to raise it (they did raise the Pulsar).

The thing I miss most is the hot shower. I fitted a Glind shower to the first Hilux I had with Cecily, and then moved it to the red Pulsar that Elli and I used for some years. Then it went under the bonnet of the Hilux I have just gotten rid of. The heat exchanger had developed a small leak, and part of the plastic housing was starting to split so I left that in the Hilux when I sold it. It would not have fitted under the bonnet of this car anyway. I'll have to investigate other camping hot showers.



Elli



Tenna



Rachel

I also could have taken the solar panel and stored it on top of the bedding in the tent but I didn't have time to make up leads and things for it – it was a rush to get the car equipped like it is. I did run the car for half an hour a couple of times at places I stayed two nights – to top up the second battery running the fridge. Very little needs changing before my next trip – next year?

My last blog. From here it is down to the Mornington Peninsula Sunday morning to catch up with friends, then on the ferry to Devonport Sunday night. I have an appointment with Peugeot in Launceston Monday morning to get the radio that I picked up in Melbourne fitted. This is not a simple procedure and they advised me I needed the VIN number of the car it came out of or they would not be able to fit it to my car. I had to email the young lady I bought it from and she took a picture of the plate with her VIN number and sent it to me.

Should be home by Monday evening. Looking forward to the Friday lunches with the old hockey players, and hope the Marquis hasn't upset Richard and they have had to change pubs again.