

# Autumn at Jones' Bridge, Tumut 16 -19 April 2018

**Monday 16 April 2018**

We arrived at Jones' Bridge in Tumut around 13:30. There was significant roadwork on the Gocup Road – the main route into Tumut from the Hume Highway at Gundagai.

The free parking area was quite busy when we arrived with several vans and one motorhome parked in the area. However, the area is quite large and can accommodate these vehicles quite easily without people parking on top of each other. We have parked close to our usual area which gives us a great view of the Tumut River and the classic sounds of the water passing over the stony riverbed. A very pleasant experience.



Tumut River Jones' Bridge



Our free camping site

After setting up we headed off to get some firewood for our usual evening campfire. We have purchased a new circular fire bowl, and I am eager to try it out. From there we must, of course, find Maree a coffee. So, we sat outside a nice coffee shop so Maree could indulge in her favourite pastime – coffee and people watching.

We headed back to camp after coffee and relaxed before heading off to the pub for dinner. I can't be bothered cooking tonight so taking the easy way out. Maree decided to have the smoked Snowy Mountain trout and I had the chicken schnitzel with a green peppercorn sauce. Both meals were served nice and hot and were delicious. Maree said she really enjoyed the trout.



Our free camping site next to the Tumut River



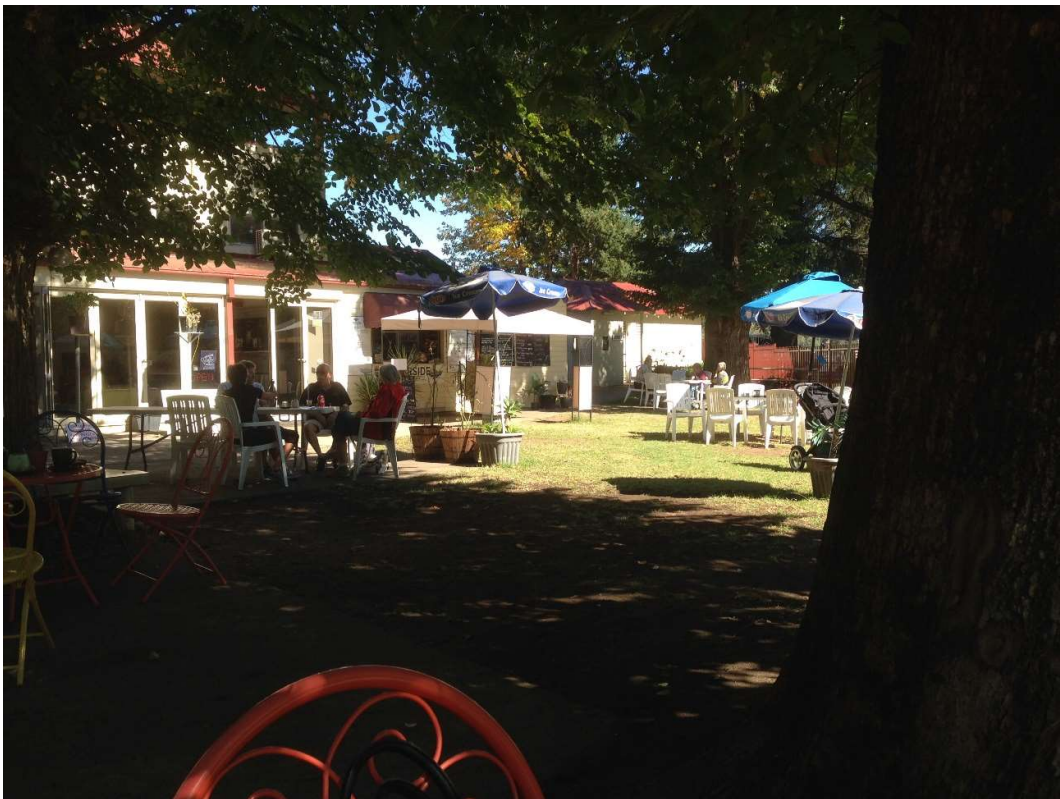
We are back at the van now and unfortunately everyone else in the area has gone to bed early for the night. They must all be heading out early tomorrow morning. A shame as there really isn't any point starting the fire as I am the only one that would enjoy it tonight. Maree wants to watch her MKR show tonight so not even she will be outside to enjoy it. Oh well I'll light the fire earlier tomorrow night as we will be cooking on the weber – a nice piece of tender eye fillet and roast veg. Hmm I'm looking forward to that.

### **Tuesday 17 April 2018**

Today we started off with breakfast cooked in the Weber Baby Q; the usual bacon and eggs. While cooking breakfast a couple of the caravans left and one new one has joined us next to the river. Also, the guy who is looking after the site at Jones' Bridge popped around to say hello and trim some of the branches that are hanging low over the entrance to the ground.

The council owns this land, but they do not do any upkeep. So, a local retired chap comes in and cleans up the area, trimming the trees, cutting the grass, and planting new trees in the area. He has done a lot of work, and the changes are very noticeable when compared with our last stay here in August 2017.

I met the chap, Don, and he is a very pleasant gentlemen and very happy to do the work in his own time. Unfortunately, he gets no support from the council so most of the money he injects is from his own pocket. Since our last stay he has erected a donation box and people are being generous supporting his work. His next challenge he says is to put in some BBQ pits for the tourists who stay over.



The racecourse coffee shop

We are now at the local racecourse coffee shop. This area is pleasant situated again next to the Tumut River. The coffee and food are great and Maree is relaxed reading her book as I type away on this blog. From here we will do a leisurely walk next to the river giving Maree the opportunity to exercise her knee.

Tonight, we had a lovely evening as we were joined by two other couples that had arrived during the day. So, we all pitched in and provided something for dinner and sat around our campfire for hours. I think I finally got to bed around midnight. A great night.



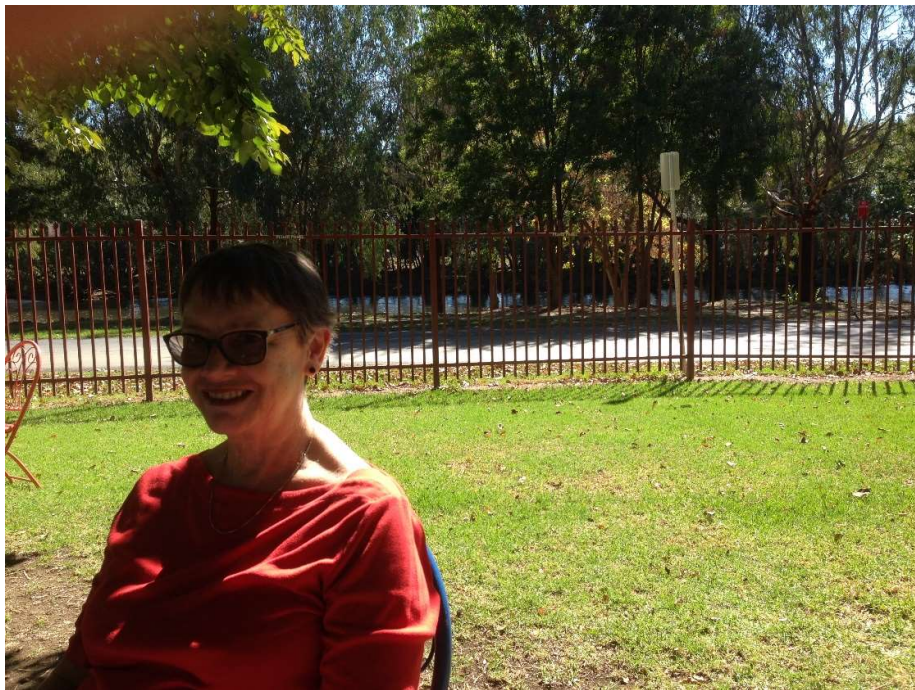
The roaring campfire





The gang we had dinner with last night. Judy is serving scones, jam and cream for brunch.

**Wednesday 18 April 2018**



At the coffee shop with Maree and river in the background





Maree relaxing around the fire.

Today Maree and I had a leisurely day around the campsite. Maree read her book and I tried some fishing in the Tumut River. I had to wade in about a third of the way across the river and I was surprised to find the water quite warm. The water was also fast flowing, so I had to be careful when walking across the current. A good afternoon fishing but no fish. Another chap turned up to fish right on dusk, the best time to fish here, and he caught a nice rainbow trout which he released back into the river.

#### **Thursday 19 April 2018**

After a leisurely start we packed up and headed to our favourite coffee shop at the race ground. We were joined by one of the couples that we had dinner with on Tuesday night and sat around chatting before we both set off for our destinations.

Another great few days at Jones' Bridge.

Steve and Maree