



Anchorage News



The loaded mini-van pulled into the only remaining campsite. Four children leaped from the vehicle and began feverishly unloading gear and setting up the tent.

The boys rushed to gather firewood, while the girls and their mother set up the camp stove and cooking utensils. A nearby camper marvelled to the youngsters' father, "Sir, that is some display of teamwork."

The father replied, "I have a system; no one goes to the bathroom until the camp is set up."

Christmas Party

The children's choir from Iluka Public School came to sing Christmas carols for us this year. They were great, and their enthusiasm was enjoyed by all who attended. A mellow group this year, content to sit and chat. We had a raffle of a beautiful hand-made Christmas bear, who was won by Shirley Knox. Anne Galbraith won the door prize of a great Christmas hamper. \$210 was raised from these proceeds and from our staff Christmas party. This money has been sent to the Royal Children's Hospital Christmas Appeal, which is a worthy cause, so thank you to all who contributed.



New Year's Eve Party

This was the funniest night! The theme was Fairies and Wizards and so many people dressed up this year. There were some Scary Fairies, some Wonky Wizards and some that we weren't quite sure what they were! DJ Echo was again terrific and kept the dance floor full for most of the night, no mean feat when the age bracket ranged from toddlers to grandparents and everything in between! The crowd took over the camp road and the weather was warm and dry...thank goodness. There was lots of laughter, lots of dancing (followed by sore muscles the next day!), lots of off-tune singing and lots of fun had by all. Everyone was a great help by cleaning up after themselves and you'd never even know we'd been there! Photos of the night are on the website, so check out the fun.



Pool and Spa

How naive we were to think all you had to do to commission a new pool complex was 'press the switch'. It has been almost 18 months since the official opening in July 2009 and during that time we have been on a fairly steep learning curve.

This pool is more than twice the size of the old one and falls into the category of commercial, which means that you follow the same procedures but on a far larger scale. The added complication of Pool and Spa heating - something we did not have on the old pool - opened up another can of worms. We discovered that the supplier of the heaters was not as familiar with the operation of these 50 kilowatt monsters as he should have been; and when he discovered Sel's background as an ex 'sparky', he started to do some ducking and diving to avoid what we thought was his responsibility. In the end he came through and we 'kissed and made up', (or at least shook hands) and about October last year we collectively breathed a sigh of relief, believing that at last, we had commissioned a pretty good Pool Complex, which should serve *The Anchorage* for a long time.

Rain...and floods!

In 2010, recorded rainfall at The Anchorage totalled approximately 1779 millimeters. This was 115 more than in 2009, yet in *that* year, the park was threatened by a pretty big flood! Down this end of the mighty Clarence, it's all about how much falls in what length of time, what is happening in the rivers that join this one and what the tides are up to. In 2009, we had heavy rain, king tides and all 5 rivers leading into the Clarence were flooding. So...naturally, we flooded! This year was a different kind of flood. Iluka did not see the type of rain our northern cousins did and the tides were in our favour. The river was brown and fairly full, but nothing to worry about until Tenterfield got hit by a similar rain pattern (if not the same storm cell), as those in the north. The subsequent water coming down river meant Grafton, Ulmarra, Lawrence, Brushgrove, Harwood, Chatsworth Island and certain parts of Maclean & Yamba saw flooding to various degrees and some precautionary evacuations. Had we experienced the same conditions as we did in 2009, this flood would have risen higher than it did that year, which would have been a worry. However, the river was kind to us this time and peak levels were lower than expected. As at publication, we have seen no flooding of Iluka at all and with the waters receding, we believe the crisis is over for us.

Kudos to those campers who were brave enough to stay...or still come! Many of them have been here before and are aware that historically, the park and Iluka have been fine. It has been odd to see everyone swimming in the pool, playing and having fun while we waited for the flood! Thankfully, we are now fine. Our thoughts are with our customers who have been affected and collectively, our many friends and families who are in QLD. We hope they stay safe, that their clean-up is not too hard and that they recover soon.

Comings & Goings

- We say goodbye to Darren this month. He decided he needed to spend his time building his house but graciously stayed over Christmas to help us out. He's been a lot of fun to work with and we wish him all the best.
- A few residents have been & gone for Christmas, too many ups & downs to list!
- Our oldest resident, the lovely Joan Hodges, is not well, and she is currently in hospital. We miss her humour and smiling face.