

Gday...

I made the journey from Normanton to Mount Surprise in October 2012.

Mostly an uneventful trip although there was quite a lot of large roo roadkill which meant I needed to use the other side of the road to avoid running over it. Of course, there were lots of hawks doing their best to get the roadkill off the road but there is only so much a hawk can do.

There were constant signs on the side of the road stating that there were cattle wandering and to exercise care and I did encounter quite a lot of small herds of Brahma cattle - those very big light grey ones with the hump on their back. I certainly would not want to run into one. Thankfully they just stayed on the side of the road and stared at me stupidly as I passed.

I saw quite a few brolga as well, and they were keen to wander across the road in front of me. One decided to take flight as I got near it but it missed me as it took off. Of course, any roo within 10 metres of the highway was always undecided which way to go - often heading to the highway to only, thankfully, change its mind and head bush. So apart from all that, and very little traffic, it was, as I said, an uneventful trip.

I took some photos and here's a couple I thought you may be interested in.



Above: Single-lane bridge across the Gilbert River between Croydon and Georgetown.



The narrow road between Croydon and Georgetown



Dirt road between Georgetown and Mount Surprise



Above and below - some of the countryside between Georgetown and Mount Surprise





After spending a week at Mt Surprise van park and visiting the Lava Tubes, I headed to Millaa Millaa and spent two weeks there exploring the waterfalls and the Atherton Tableland area.

I moved on to Mission Beach through Innisfail and because it was now late October all the 'old GNs' had moved back south and the coastal area was almost deserted.

I had no problems of any kind on the journey from Normanton to Mission beach. The road was in excellent condition and, in fact, there were considerable roadworks so I could assume it may even be better now.

There were no problems coping with the road/s you have suggested you want to drive. However, I did do this part of my journey in middle October so this may mean little traffic. However, I don't recall meeting many, if any, roadtrains.

It is fantastic country to travel through. I intend to return to these areas of Queensland in the future once my circumstances get themselves sorted out.

I include a photo of my rig just for interest. As you can see it is very much a 'black top tourer' and I do not take it on dirt roads. Although there was unsealed road between Croydon and Mt Surprise due to roadworks. As with all outback roads, you need to be wary and observant of the side verges if you need to pull over. Some can be a bit severe - but are OK with care - just read the conditions.



Cheers - John

