

## KYOGLE TOURIST DRIVE NUMBER 9

## Tabulam - Plains Station Yates Crossing - Clarence Way HALF DAY DRIVE FROM TABULAM

This is a circuit drive of half a day, which starts and finishes on the Bruxner Highway. Total distance is 55 kilometres with 25 kilometres being unsealed. The drive gives good views of the Clarence River and offers a stopover by this magnificent river half way through the journey.

From Tabulam: Historically Tabulam is the home of the Light Horse Brigade and your journey begins by travelling west over **Tabulam Bridge** which at 161 metres in length is one of the longest timber truss bridges ever built in Australia. Graceful **black swans** can often be seen in this part of the river and are worth watching out for as you cross the bridge. The riverbanks still show signs of the enormous volume of water that descended down this river in the flood of 1976, coming over the western approach of the bridge. Food is available at Tabulam and the racecourse and cemetery are points of interest. 3 kilometres past the bridge watch out for jabirus feeding in the wetland beside the road. The jabiru is Australia's only stork and is also called the 'policeman bird'. Turn left into Plains Station Road and after 1 kilometre the road crosses the **Timbarra River**, a major tributary of the Clarence River. The source of the Timbarra River is high in the New England Tablelands near Glen Innes. Note the coarse sand of the river which is largely the result of major gold sluicing activity commencing upstream of the bridge in the late 1800s.

Travelling another 3 kilometres the road narrows into **Frasers Cutting**. From here you overlook a boulder strewn section of the Clarence River. Take care here, as the road is narrow and winding for a short distance. The large granite boulders which create the white water in this section have come from Mount Braid which is the hill above Frasers Cutting. The countryside now opens to an area known as **Plains Station**, some of the richest agricultural river flats in Australia, growing corn and other grains. After crossing Mookima Wybra Creek, 250 metres on your right come to artist **Keith Cameron's Gallery**. A disused silo has been converted into an imposing viewing tower and gallery. Encouraging people with an artistic bent, Keith provides accommodation for visiting artists and is also creating a Sculpture Walk Park. His own work ranges from small to

large contemporary sculptures. Phone 6661 3511 to visit. Ten kilometres past the gallery the road crosses the Clarence River at **Yates Crossing**. This is the perfect spot for morning tea or lunch and a swim.

On the flat above Yates Crossing is the "township" of **Alice**, proclaimed in 1885 but never more than a few canvas tents and bark humpies that have long disappeared.

Travelling 2 km past Yates Crossing a 'T' intersection brings you to the Clarence Way, where you can turn left to travel back to Tabulam or the Bruxner Highway.

For the next few kilometres the road travels on a high bank above the river with only the occasional glimpse of the water. The best views of the river are approximately 16 km after you turn onto the Clarence Way. Here you can view the calm water below the cliffs of **Pagans Flat**, so named after Pagan who was killed by Aboriginals in 1841. This was followed by a terrible retribution in which many died.

Three kilometres on from Pagans Flat the road forks with both roads meeting the Bruxner Highway. If you wish to return to Tabulam take the left hand fork. Those people wishing to return to Casino or the coast can take the right hand fork. For further info visit the website: www.cleanandgreen.com.au

## KYOGLE COUNCIL AREA

ENHANCE YOUR HOLIDAY,
ENJOY A RELAXING CAR TOUR
IN THE RAINFORESTS OF KYOGLE,
PART OF THE RICHMOND & CLARENCE VALLEYS.

## 'GATEWAY TO THE RAINFORESTS'

Kyogle Council area is unique, with many National Parks including the Border Rangers offering wonderful opportunities to enjoy Australia's natural beauty. The upper reaches of the Richmond and Clarence Rivers make this a stunning area to visit. Join the many people experiencing the beauty of Kyogle, the Gateway to the Rainforests, superb scenic drives, great picnic grounds, bush walking, camping and off road experiences.

Just two hours from most north coast seaside centres will find you in the heart of the rainforest!

Further information may be obtained from Kyogle Visitor Information Centre, Corner Summerland Way and Anzac Drive, Kyogle NSW 2474 (02) 66322700 Email kyoglevic@bigpond.com Web www.kyogle.nsw.gov.au

