

Mystery Drive – Sunday 15.11.09

With a forecast top of 40 degrees, the day was altered and shortened to suit the hot conditions. We met at the Gawler Visitors Information Centre at 8.00am (brought forward by 1 hour due to the heat) and with 6 diehard members; Brent and Keryn, Wayne, Bronte, Quenton and Deb (down from 14 originally on the trip sheet).

We set off up Gawler East soon turning onto dirt roads through Concordia. We travelled through quite pretty country including a water crossing and the delightful town of Rosedale. Continuing through Greenock and along the back roads to just north of Kapunda; turning off the Kapunda to Eudunda road onto Anlaby road and headed to the historic Anlaby Station.



Driving up the Gum studded drive we arrived at Anlaby Station. More like a village than a farm, our guide met us for our 9.00am tour of the homestead. The station was established in 1839 by Frederick Dutton soon becoming a reputable Merino sheep and Clydesdale horse stud.

The buildings and gardens of Anlaby are in the process of being restored and our guide showed us through most of the house including the kitchen, butler's pantry and scullery, the servant's domain and up the stairs to the main formal part of the house. We were shown original cupboards in perfect working order, expensive drapes, original lighting, flooring, decorative imported timber panelling etc all over 100 years old.

Stories of Henry Dutton and son Geoffrey Dutton who ran the property through the years were told as our guide showed us through the various wings and cellars of the homestead. With no air conditioning and after 8 days of record November heat, the home was comfortably cool. The current owners, Andrew Morphett and his partner Peter Haywood have just purchased the original Woolshed back, and all members present are looking forward to a tour of the gardens and outbuildings as well as the Shearing Shed precinct sometime in the future. A short drive back to Kapunda and a drive through Dutton Park (land donated by the original Dutton family) and a morning tea stop by the duck pond at Davidson Reserve.



As usual, Mystery day trips feature superb morning teas and again with a selection of yummy slices (from Angaston's Sunrise Bakery) and icy cold soft drinks, today was no exception!

The last stop on the tour was a look at the excellent "Light Region Interpretive Display" in the underground rooms of the historic Thompson Building (formally Thompson's Store built in the 1860s). A well put together display – well worth the look.

Everyone agreed, despite the heat, the day was very enjoyable.

[Quenton and Deb]