



Willangi Bush Escapes Trip Reports: October 2010

Our October L.W.E adventure was enjoyed I am sure, by all who took part and so must be recorded. Taking it all in were: Trip Leader – Quenton, Deb and David, Simon and Cain, Max and Lyn, Steven, Marie, Roy and Bronwyn, and early birds, the Wilkins and Jansens, who arrived on Friday.



We headed off through the Clare Valley, Spalding, Jamestown, Yongala to Peterborough. First stop was a visit to Willangi Office. There we met the vivacious Antionette. Finances were settled and she gave us maps and information on how to find Camp No 2. We drove out to Paradise and in the green slopes below the ranges; our camps were soon set up. After a late lunch we set off on the first 4WD which took care of the afternoon.

Gate openers and closers were kept busy. Willangi is a working sheep property with rules to be followed. A windmill was noticed, spilling water out over the ground, and later we were able to contact the owners who thanked us and repaired the break. Tyre pressures were dropped as the tracks were sharp rock, edged with flowering wattles through the ranges.



Higher up we captured views of blue peaks of the Lower Flinders in the far distance.



Back at Camp 2, it was time to make tea. Then at 7.30 we all drove back to Peterborough to attend the Railway Sound & Light Show at 8.30. The reception area of the Steamtown Depot Museum was filled with sale items, books and souvenirs, model engines etc. which kept us busy until we were escorted to



the railway carriage to sit and view the show.

The full history of S.A.R. development with the Three Gauges and various engines, and the importance of Peterborough as the centre of railway activity, was the theme. A very interesting and informative show to complete the busy day.



Sunday, with clocks pushed forward an hour, we moved out at 9.30 for a long half day's track driving. Not far out we came across an old homestead and outbuilding ruins which took some investigating and kept the cameras clicking.

The undergrowth was so thick that the tracks disappeared at times and some tacks went nowhere.



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Lots of U turns. Morning tea kept us going until all our planned drive was done. Back at Camp 2 we farewelled Quenton & family, and after a relaxing lunch we all headed into Peterborough to explore the town. Of main interest was the Motor Bike Museum, which included a full range of antiques and brick-a-brack. The couple in charge made sure that we did not miss a thing. Next stop was the coffee shop. On the way back, a stop

at a garage sale had good results for Roy, Bronwyn and Marie, who all scored a bargain.

Back at Camp 2, the fire was stoked up for camp ovens, and Lyn brought out some happy hour food, homemade



dips and slices. The nature lovers led by Keryn, had gone missing on an echidna trail. Eventually they returned with photos and much excitement and joined in the happy hour. The coals were arranged and camp ovens prepared and set, as well as BBQing. The main meal was enjoyed by all and followed by a crusty damper from Max and a fruit sponge pudding from Keryn. Great job everyone.



There was nothing left to do except sit back and enjoy the fire.

Reluctantly Monday a.m. was pack up the gear time, and by late in the morning we were on our way home, through Whyte Yarcowie, Hallett (for a



pastie) and Burra to Tarlee where the police were waiting to breath test some of us. Altogether a very enjoyable and relaxing weekend, with beautiful green countryside, great company and food, a well presented campsite, thanks to the dedicated owners, the Sleep Family. It was appropriately named 'PARADISE'. The Club must go back some time in the future.



Banjo Patterson's poem "The Old Australian Ways" has a verse which goes -----

*"The wind is in the barley-grass,
The wattles are in boom;
The breezes greet us as they pass
With honey sweet perfume;
The parakeets go screaming by
With flash of golden wing,
And from the swamp the wild-ducks cry
Their long-drawn note of revelry,
Rejoicing at the Spring."*



[By A LOVE OF THE OUTBACK]



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Willangi Bush Escapes #2

15km north of Peterborough, Southern Flinders Ranges

What a peaceful and picturesque long weekend just a few hours away from Gawler.



Phil & Antoinette have 9500 acres of sheep grazing property where they have opened part of this land in October 2009 for self-driving tracks and bush camping for many groups to enjoy. Current access tracks are by 2wd and Caravan to 6 different campsites with plans for more by 4wd only. A fire ring and wood is supplied at every campsite.

Being so new and the only campers for the whole weekend, we were able to pick and choose the best campsite and tracks to go on. There are a variety of low to medium to high

4wd tracks with clear mud maps pinned together with numbered sheep ear tags. The maps may have been clear but not so for the tracks which were lucky to receive a nice lot of rain for the long grass to grow over the markers after approx. 15 years of drought.

A highlight we missed was the private hot bush bath where rolling hills can be seen during the day and stars by night – a must next time we visit. What more can you want except a comfortable clean eco-friendly, self-biodegrading loo – the very best I have been in. The sweet aroma remained all weekend with so many using this great facility. The secret from Antoinette was shared with me and she doesn't mind if I share with you.

A recipe for a loo freshener after sprinkling ash on the deposits.

1 tablespoon bi-carb soda

8 tablespoons vinegar

8 tablespoons tea tree oil

4 tablespoons Eucalyptus

Dash of straight fabric softener

Add approx 2 lts warm water then bottle up which can be put in a shaker or spray dispenser. Of course you can ½ it for a smaller quantity. Another

one of her secrets was to sprinkle aromatherapy oil (I think she used lemon grass) onto the wooden posts inside the loo. Perhaps this all added to the campsite name Paradise as well as the scenery.



Ask our Trip Coordinator, Roy for a coloured leaflet on this great 4wd bush camping experience or check out their website www.willangibushescapes.com. I know we will go back again but a little unsure if we will stay an extra week like Max suggested without a shower but that's when we find that lovely hot bath.

The Sound & Light Show at Steamtown

Another new experience - the only visual light & sound show in SA explaining the history story while sitting in a 1916 historic rail carriage. The viewing is shown at night for 1 hour with varied carriages lit up in various illuminated colours as a backdrop, then a roller door comes down where the movies were shown. We listened to the story of the creation of Peterborough as a centre point for the railways.

The Motorcycle Antiques are housed in an old Church building with more renovations still to be made. We were so busy checking out the motor bikes that the damper had risen too high over the pot which had to be needed down again ready for the camp oven that night.

[Lyn]