

**Kookaburra Creek (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013)**

**Saturday, 8 June 2013, 'On the Road again'**

Excitement is in the air this morning as it has been a long time since we travelled with the club, and we've missed it. We met at Tarlee for 0730 departure. An interesting start with tail lights missing and Jo checking for oil leaks (fortunately for her it was from a previous vehicle in the parking lot,) Jessica eating breakfast from a leaking container, 8 degrees with a stiff easterly breeze blowing. 8 vehicles were on their way for a great weekend including Max and Lyn, 1st time leaders, Keryn and Brent (back on the road at last,) Jo and Mum, Peter and Mandy, Marie, Sue & Roger, Ian and Claire, Norma and Bronte (tail end Charlie). Ahh, it's so good to be out again!

We travelled via Riverton, a perfect morning with clear skies and green hillsides. Clarentyne was nowhere in sight, but Morticia came on this trip. There were lots of new lambs and it wasn't long before we could see the wind turbines on the hill tops against the morning skyline as the sun rose over Manoora (named after a hospital war ship that was sunk by a Japanese submarine).

Porters Lagoon looked magic as the sun peeped across the small amount of water left and the house on the hill stood in its glory as the sun lit it up. Called into Hanson, near Burra, for a pit stop then on to Spalding for a coffee break.

Max pointed out the water channel and 2 pipelines that ran parallel to the road including sluice gates and a railway bridge. The channels were used to direct water from the hills to the Bundaleer reservoir. It is now redundant and only used for emergencies. This reservoir serviced an area from Pt. Pirie to Kadina until the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline was built in 1942. Now only one full time person maintains it.

Paul and James joined us at Spalding and coffee and muffins were had at the 'Barb Wire Pub'.

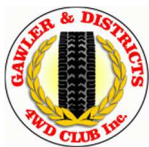
We had a guided tour of the museum. There was an extensive collection of barbed wire, 500 pieces on display with about 1000 yet to be identified, some were handmade. Barbed wire was first used commercially in Western America (produced and patented for ranches so they could be identified and not stolen so readily.) The collection also included droppers, fishing flies, saddles and historic photos of the region.

We went on a guided tour by Geoff Tiller to the historic Mundunny Woolshed, a building approx 110 yrs old, made of stone, jarrah and concrete. Originally a 14 stand shed, now 7, it is still a working property although much of the land is cropped.

From here we travelled to the Bundaleer Reservoir and aquaduct, a word invented by the Romans meaning 'Wet Duck', and this feeds the water into the reservoir. We also saw Balan school plaque located near Bundaleer homestead no. 2 (built in case the original homestead was flooded if the reservoir wall burst.)

We left Geoff Tiller and dog Cooper at 1215 after an excellent informative tour and headed for Georgetown for pit stop via Gulnare. WOW what a beautiful day filled with fantastic scenery and views and great company. A touch of rural paradise - green rolling hills, scattered with old stone ruins dotting the landscape.

John Mewett joined us at 1225 on the main road to Georgetown, quite accidentally, with an immediate update of today's weather-17deg, altitude 200mt, fine and sunny. 'Welcome aboard John'.



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A quick play for Jessica at the Georgetown playground, then on our way to Gladstone and Melrose. Road blocks for their annual 'Fat Tyre' event meant detours around town then soon we arrived at 'Kookaburra Creek' our designated camp ground for the weekend. It was a delightful spot, and there was much excitement at the sight of the tons of fire wood scattering the area as we entered the property.

We could barely restrain John from dragging some bigger pieces into the camp with him! Q and Deb and Jane and John had already set up the evening before amongst the gums and bulbs. The fire pit was ready to go! So the cob was heated up and happy hour got everyone in a relaxed mood.

That night we celebrated John Jansen's birthday with a cake and revved up the fire to make everyone toasty warm and ready for a great weekend.

Thankyou Max and Lyn for an interesting, well organised weekend to a beautiful spot.

**[Keryn Wilkins]**

**Sunday 9 June 2013**

Day 2 dawned over the campsite with a beautiful red sunrise against the back drop of the hills. After breakfast we all assembled ready to take on the Bridle Track and beyond.

Sad start for Brent and Keryn who needed a 'jump start' by Max's heavy duty battery leads. Someone (who shall remain nameless) left the ignition switch on all night!

All vehicles ventured into Melrose and up Survey Road to the Bridle Track across the rolling hills west of Mt Remarkable. The weather was perfect with no rain and just a few clouds – amazing for June!

The track produced magnificent views at the top of Pt Germein, Pt Pirie, Point Bonython and Pt Augusta. The down track took us to the flats towards the sea then through Pt Germein Gorge to Bartagunyah Estate and morning tea/lunch break. Break over, we then proceeded on our afternoon drive along the Bartagunyah track. This track was certainly more challenging than the Bridle Track and the views did not disappoint. The lovely green rolling hills, spinifex, yakka's and even a "very" new-born lamb were all part of the spectacular scenery.

During our lunch/afternoon tea break, Dave R and John M helped a group ahead of us hand winch one unfortunate vehicle back onto the road. Before we knew it, the excitement was over and we were back on our way again.

Then, we had an unexpected extended break near the end of our journey. Max & Lyn encountered a creek crossing with a very rutted hill ascent on the other side. Damn... stuck at the bottom!! Fortunately, Quenton (towed) and Dave R (co-ordinator) came to the rescue and a catastrophe was averted.

Six more vehicles were safely across until Paul & James M had the same fate as Max & Lyn!! Once again the team swung into action and Paul is up the top with the rest and on his way.

The final stage of the track was completed without any more hiccups and we all rolled back into camp ready to relight the camp fire and talk over the day's events.

What a fantastic day! Thanks to Max & Lyn for organising it all.



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**Monday 10 June 2013**

Monday morning was another perfect day. Some of us had a sleep in, others played with their metal detectors.

While waiting for canvas etc. to dry from the night dew, there were 5 of us who went to see the massive display of old steam and veteran tractors at the Booleroo Museum. This was a pre booked venue if the weather turned foul for the weekend.

It wasn't required but we made use of the booked guide to take us through and see the display of mainly old farm equipment. We did notice by going through that the Jansen members in the club may have a bit to tell us about their Engineering past. Did your family make strippers (not the feminine type, but these may be included), a harvester which carries your name?



When arriving back at camp, some of the gang had packed and left. Others were still packing but by 12.30 the site was empty and all were on their way home.

This is the end of another club long weekend trip.

**[Max Leske]**