



**Quorn – October LWE (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014)**

**October Long Weekend**

As usual when you are camping the weather plays an important part and this long weekend was no exception. The forecast was for hot and windy weather but we were not to be deterred from our train ride on the Pichi Richi Railway.



We made our way up to Quorn on the Friday planning to meet, Nick, Kerrie, Kaleb and Ally up at the Caravan Park. Quenton and I having acquired a Caravan began the journey up to Quorn via National Highway 1 so we could try out the new coffee stop at Lochiel. The great coffee and cake is recommended and with a vast lake as the backdrop makes for a great stop. We arrived at Quorn mid-afternoon after having lunch on the foreshore at Port Germein.

The Quorn Caravan Park is a great spot with big trees for shade and lots of bird life to watch and listen to. Not long after we had set up, John and Karyn arrived with their grandchildren Bradley and Tahlia. The afternoon was spent relaxing around camp and discussing the program for the weekend. It wasn't until after dark that Stephen arrived with his brother Dean and Dean's son Cameron.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

We awoke to a beautiful South Australian morning with the forecast temperature being in the low 30's. The morning was spent looking around Quorn and reading the paper. After lunch we all went for a drive north of Quorn out past Warren Gorge to Hugh Proby's grave. Proby was the third son of the Irish Earl of Craysfort and the founder of Kanyaka Station who had, at the age of 24, drowned whilst trying to cross the Willochra Creek that was in flood. We then travelled on to the ruins of Kanyaka Station via a lookout which gave us a great view of the surrounding country. When you walk around the quite sizeable ruins of Kanyaka Station you have to wonder what Hugh Proby could have achieved if his life was not cut short. From there it was onto the black top and back to Quorn for well-deserved Ice creams.

[Deb Earl]

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Sunday morning, we got up fairly early and enjoyed pancakes for breakfast. We were all excited about investigating the Arden Hills track. Unfortunately, we found out that our leader Quenton wasn't well, so Deb and Quenton decided to have a quiet day at the caravan park. Karyn and Tahlia decided they were going to have a nanny day in Quorn.

We ventured off down to the tourist office to pick up the key, our group included Nick, Kerry, Ali, Kaleb. Stephen, Dean, Cameron, Bradley and John.

Stephen's Pajero started to play up, so decided not to take his vehicle on the track. Stephen, Dean and Cameron ended up at Devils Peak. Good decision as the track turned out



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to be very hard four-wheel driving. Therefore only Nick, Kerry, Ali, Kaleb, Bradley and John headed for the hills, with no idea where we were going.



On arrival at Warren Gorge, I could not believe the amount of campers that were there, obviously a very popular spot. At the entrance gate into Arden Hill track, we met a local, Steve and his 2 young daughters. Steve offered to show us around the track, this we all agreed to very promptly as we had no idea where we were going.

Steve immediately took us on the wrong track, so therefore we had to turn around. I started to think Lyn and Max

were with us, just like ole times haha. Luckily this was the only mistake he made.

The scenery was beautiful, very green as it had only rained a couple of weeks prior. We were about half way up and the views and scenery were magnificent looking over Lake Torrens. We went down into a valley, which was a beautiful picnic area with tables and fireplace, so decided to have morning tea there.

Back onto the track and heading upwards, we were doing really heavy 4x4 driving and Bradley was loving it. We finally arrived on top of Arden Hill, looking out over the plains below and the Argadells. Bradley and Steve's 2 girls were very busy taking photos of a frill neck lizard.

We headed back down into a valley then up a very steep hill, Steve's Toyota just made it with his ground clearance and the trustworthy Pajero had to be put into low diff lock (now we were rock climbing) but the ole girl made it with Bradley hanging on.

This was one of the hardest climbs I have done for a while. Nick was guided through with no mishaps, but with Kerri and the kids hanging on.

It was all downhill now, so Kerry decided to walk down and take a photo of Nick coming down the track, but unfortunately the hill was all shale and very slippery. Kerry arrived at the bottom 1st a bit like sand-boarding but with no board.

We arrived back at the entrance gate and thanked Steve and his daughters for an enjoyable drive backed with his local knowledge of the track and area. We had lunch at Warren Gorge, and then headed back to Quorn where we met Karyn and Tahlia at the railway station to watch the double Pitchi Richi steam trains arrive from Pt Augusta. We had a very enjoyable day with some good 4x4 driving, good company - just what we love and enjoy!

**[Thanks for a great weekend - John and Karyn Mewett]**



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**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

The last day of the weekend and the day of the train trip, the weather was starting to change and we all packed up quickly to avoid what looked like a drenching and headed to the train at about 10am. Unfortunately, the weather had prevented us from having the steam train but we were not disappointed when they brought out the Diesel. A spectacular engine that is one of the oldest Diesel trains in the Southern hemisphere, it was then all aboard for Woolshed Flat.

The kids in the group, both young and old were excited about putting our heads out the window to watch the end carriages go over the bridges and to wave at the traffic as it stopped for us at crossings. The stop of about an hour at Woolshed Flat allowed us to have refreshments in the old schoolhouse and read the history of this rail siding whilst the train turned around. Then, back on the train for the return journey to Quorn before heading home.

**[Thank you all for a great weekend - Deb Earl]**