



Mystery History Day trip - Sunday 3rd May 2015

We all met at the Gawler Visitors Information Centre at 9.00am. Along for the day was Quenton and Deb (Trip Leaders) Wayne and Sandra, Joan, Keryn and Brent and Will, Roy and Bronwyn, John and Jane (Tail-end Charlie).

Our first stop was for morning tea at 9.30am at the Lions Park at Kapunda. This was a chance for everyone to have a chat over shared morning tea and enjoy a tea or coffee. Will loved the "Leo No. 5" "R" Series steam train that he could drive and was also inspected by a few "young at hearts".

At 10.00am we arrived at the Kapunda Museum where we met Meredith who kindly opened the Museum early for us to inspect. Only two from our group had been here before; it's one of those things that as a local you just don't go and see. Here we viewed the history of the area all contained in this magnificent building (originally the Baptist Church built in 1866) set on two levels. A vast array of interesting old items including an old motorised Hearse, Ambulance and Fire Truck.

Next stop was for lunch in the beautiful grounds of the Angaston Oval. Picnic lunch was enjoyed by everyone and we all commented on the weather - it was fine and sunny. Keryn and Will had a go in the skate park with Will bringing along his scooter.

After a 5 minute drive we arrived at our next stop Collingrove Homestead. Conceived as a little piece of England and commenced in 1856, Collingrove was the Angas family home and headquarters for their considerable pastoral interests. This family made significant contributions to the growth and development of South Australia from its earliest days through political involvement, pastoral endeavour and philanthropic gesture.

Collingrove was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1976 by Ronald Angas. The home is also furnished with original Angas family furniture due to a Dunstan era Minister buying them back from a Melbourne auction. We all found the home interesting including the grounds.

Now we are off for a longer drive through the Adelaide Hills to our last stop of the day - the ruins of Marble Hill. Marble Hill was built in 1880 as the summer residence of the Governor to escape the heat of summer before air conditioning. All fifteen governors who held office from 1880 to 1955 spent at least some time at Marble Hill. In addition, a number of distinguished guests were welcomed throughout the house's 75 year history as a viceregal residence, particularly [King George V](#) and [Queen Mary](#) (as [Duke](#) and [Duchess](#) of Cornwall and York) who stayed in 1901.

The house was destroyed by fire on the 2nd January, 1955 - known as "Black Sunday". We were welcomed from the car park by a very polite guide who told us where to go. We arrived in time for a tour of the ruins at 3.00pm by a young guide from the "friends of Marble Hill". He told us about the history and explained which rooms were used for what and a little about the restoration that has started on the tower, stables and barn. A great view of the Adelaide CBD can now be seen from Marble Hill thanks to the removal of some pine trees. In 2008 Marble Hill was bought by Adelaide Hills couple Edwin and Patricia Michell. They intend to complete a multi-million dollar restoration of Marble Hill and the outbuildings and grounds.

We enjoyed afternoon tea with scones in the courtyard of the newly completed barn. From here everyone made their way for home. A most enjoyable day out.

[Quenton Earl]