



Orroroo, September 2017

Well, the fire siren at Tarlee was the signal to start our trip to Orroroo. Although cloudy, there was the promise of a beautiful day ahead. Dazzling yellow Canola crops dotted the hills around us, other crops mostly looked good considering the late unpredictable start to the season.

Quenton and Deb leading, Max and Lyn, Peter, Jo, John and Jane, Keryn and Brent, Sir Waynus and Sandshoe were tail end Charlies.

A sign at Auburn read: "Coffee/Fresh Muffins/Wine!!!!" 0900 - Thought to myself "A bit early for wine!" Brent had been thinking the same thing.

Wind turbines were waving at us as we went through Spalding area and stopped at the bakery at Jamestown.

Fantastic coffee and buns enjoyed in their meeting room. After that huge boysenberry bun, no lunch for Jane! Lyn did her exercises then we were on the road again. The countryside was becoming more and more marginal now, we passed International Spalding Airport (1 plane) then the much larger International Orroroo (about 3 planes,) soon arriving at Orroroo.

We quickly settled into our luxury cabins, some had divided living and bedrooms, balcony, clothes hangers and cold running water! Jo and Peter braved the elements in their new swags. We shared the park with about 40

A-Vans and a motorcycle club were also visiting the town. A huge majority of the district personnel were at the local football preliminary finals, which made the evening pub life alive and buzzing. It was a pleasant 16 deg Cel.... at home 12.



After lunch we went to Dew's Meats in the Main Street. They have Orroroo premium kangaroo meats, hats, bags, skins, pet foods, taste testing, sales and friendly service.

As it was the Northern Arts Cultural festival in the area, we visited the Old Black Rock Hotel Gallery. It was a delightful old building, beautifully restored with a collection of paintings by local artists. A couple found their way home! The locals were very interesting to talk to about their life in the region.

Magnetic Hill was our next stop. The vehicles lined up and rolled against our figment of imagination..... except Sandshoe, who thought the road looked downhill.



We travelled on through Pekina (which has only a hotel) to Pekina reservoir. This expanse of water was once used as the town water supply and for irrigation to local dairies and for lucerne growing. Eventually due to erosion and silting, this supply of water was no longer viable. We checked out the Pekina ruins and tank lookout, before taking a group photo at the Giant Gum tree and headed back to camp along a track under the red bridge.

The group had dinner in the cosy local hotel, along with footy fans and a lady who shared her birthday cake with us because we joined in singing "happy birthday" with her friends.

The Asian specialty meal was divine, cooked by an Asian chef.

We learnt that Orroroo was laid out in 1849 by George Goyder, named after the aboriginal name 'rendezvous of magpies.

Sunday was a pleasant morning for a walk. Unfortunately many of the businesses in the town have closed due to local banks closing and young people moving away. The area school still has about 300 students.



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We went along the creek walking trail. Saw aboriginal rock carvings but were unable to locate the poem carved by a pioneer of the past. Before leaving town we had coffee at the local bakery and visited the RM Williams store.

Travelling to Peterborough we checked out their miniature station museum, old picture theatre displaying old wares and a railway carriage with the life like scenery whizzing past as the passengers ride the train from Peterborough, Manna Hill, Olary to Broken Hill. An amazing concept and very realistic.

Lunch in the local Victoria Park and it was soon time to say 'bye to Jane and John, who were extending their holiday on the river and then we headed for home. A relaxing, social weekend with our friends.

Thank you Quenton and Deb for a great weekend.

**[Kerryn]**