



Trip Report (Ngaut Ngaut)

Ngaut Ngaut Trip Report

After an early start, we left the train park at Nuriootpa on a beautiful but fresh morning, led by Q and Deb. We were heading for Swan Reach via Angaston, Keyneton and Sedan. Although hazy, the views of old stone ruins, some mud and daub and dry stone walls along the way were delightful.

We passed over SA's 1865 oldest, still working stone arch bridge at Angaston and learnt that Swan Reach's Hotel, built in 1899, was originally the homestead. After morning tea at Len White Reserve, Roger and Blake, Bronte and Norma, Q and Deb, John, Jane and Sandra H, Keryn and Brent met Ivy, our Aboriginal Guide at Nildottie.

We travelled further on to the Aboriginal Sacred site Ngaut Ngaut to meet more members of Ivy's family.

This was SA's 1st Archaeological dig. About 29 years ago a board walk was built and a few ambitious people ventured up the 218 steps with guide, Sam, to the cliff top. Although chatty at the base, the climb was done mostly in silence, except loud sounds of puffing.....presumably in awe of the fantastic views!!!!

Sam showed us the midden area. Mens' and womens' meeting places for special occasions, evidence of past fires and collections of particles of stone, (some traded by tribes from different areas) shells and bone used by previous occupants of this land. We were also shown several varieties of bush tucker growing in the area.



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Native tomato My lunch!!!!

As we made our way along the base of the cliff we saw Aboriginal Art, scattered along the walls. Ivy explained their significance as maps of the area - where river crossings could be found, distances to water holes and sources of plentiful food. It could be related to our version of a food menu or road map.



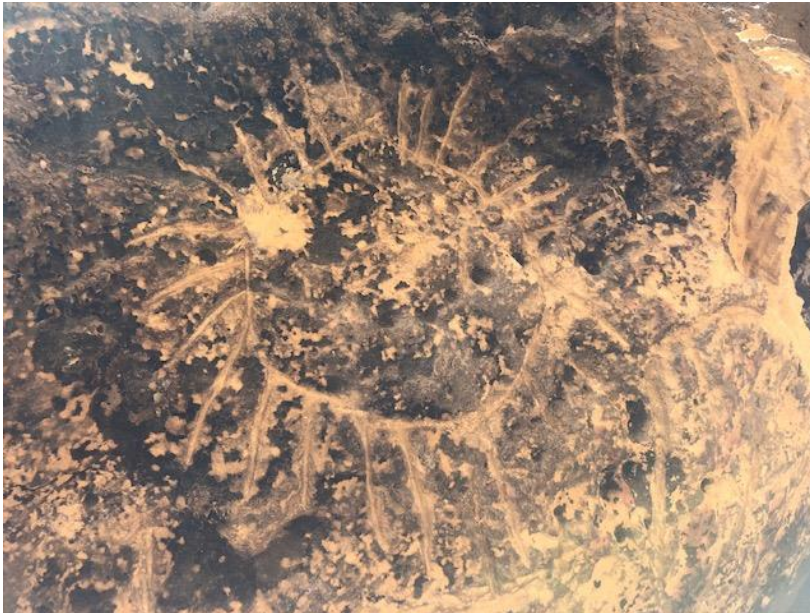
There have been 11 generations of people frequenting this site since white settlement and the tribe consisted of about 60

people. Even 'Big Macs' were mentioned.....Ivy and Sam had a good sense of humour and even though their Aboriginal heritage and culture is very important to them, they could have a good laugh and made the presentation interesting. They often related to modern day living and family life as we know it.



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It was good of them to share their special place with us and the importance of its preservation into the future.



As we left the Ngaut Ngaut reserve, Norma announced there was a 'big stink' and a squeal in their vehicle!!! No, it wasn't either of its occupants, but once the bonnet was opened it was obvious that something had collapsed/seized and the long belt was melted and chewed!!! Sadly they had to wait for a truck and missed out on the trip to the motor museum in Swan Reach.

The rest of the group visited the museum with its collection of 13 vehicles. Blake picked out his favourite and others talked about what they had owned in the past or what they would like to own!! Apart from the cars, I loved the floor surface!!

As the sun was getting lower, we stopped at Nildottie for an ice cream and checked in on the Rivetts. The truck was on its way, so the least we could do was leave them with an ice cream as we wandered home. They insisted they had everything they needed including food, water and even their stretchers in the back if needed!!!!

We waved them a goodbye and reflected on a fantastic day soured by the unfortunate breakdown of our friend's vehicle.

Thank you Q and Deb for a great day and ordering the best weather!!!!

[Keryn]