



Mellenby Station July 10th 2020

Kerry Gillies

Damien & Karen
John & Phil Bradley
Frank Marzoli
Doug & Winona
Pauline & Greg
Bob & Lucy Dorizzi
Kerry & Steve

We met at Bindoon at an early 7:30am, where those that had braved the shop queued and waited for breakfast coffee and a toastie.

I was very grateful to Bob Dorizzi for assisting me with repairing the faulty Andersson plug on our fridge. All fixed and working now.



We stopped for a wee break at Watheroo and then another about 90 minutes later at Carnamah, where most of us had cake and coffee and after this break we took the road less travelled to Morawa. Literally. Damien took us via the 'back' way. It had just as nice scenery, but the road was quieter than the Midlands Road.

At Morawa we met the rest of our convoy.

Andrew and Hertha
Terry and Jan

Woody
Alex and Maria
Mike and Clare
Terry's neighbour Bill Clarke
The twelve cars travelled in convoy along the road to Yalgoo.



Before we turned off to Mellenbye, we stopped to pick up as much wood as we could carry. Something we did several times over the weekend just so that the campgrounds wasn't depleted of fire fodder. Then, seven kilometres in, we were at the homestead and campground. We all set about making camp and getting ourselves to the campfire for a "huddle". Karen then took us on a bit of an orientation around the buildings. The facilities are fabulous with running water, hot showers, and flushing toilets.



The evening grew colder and colder and we all added layer after layer of clothing until it was too chilly to stay outside and everyone retired. The sunset was quite spectacular.

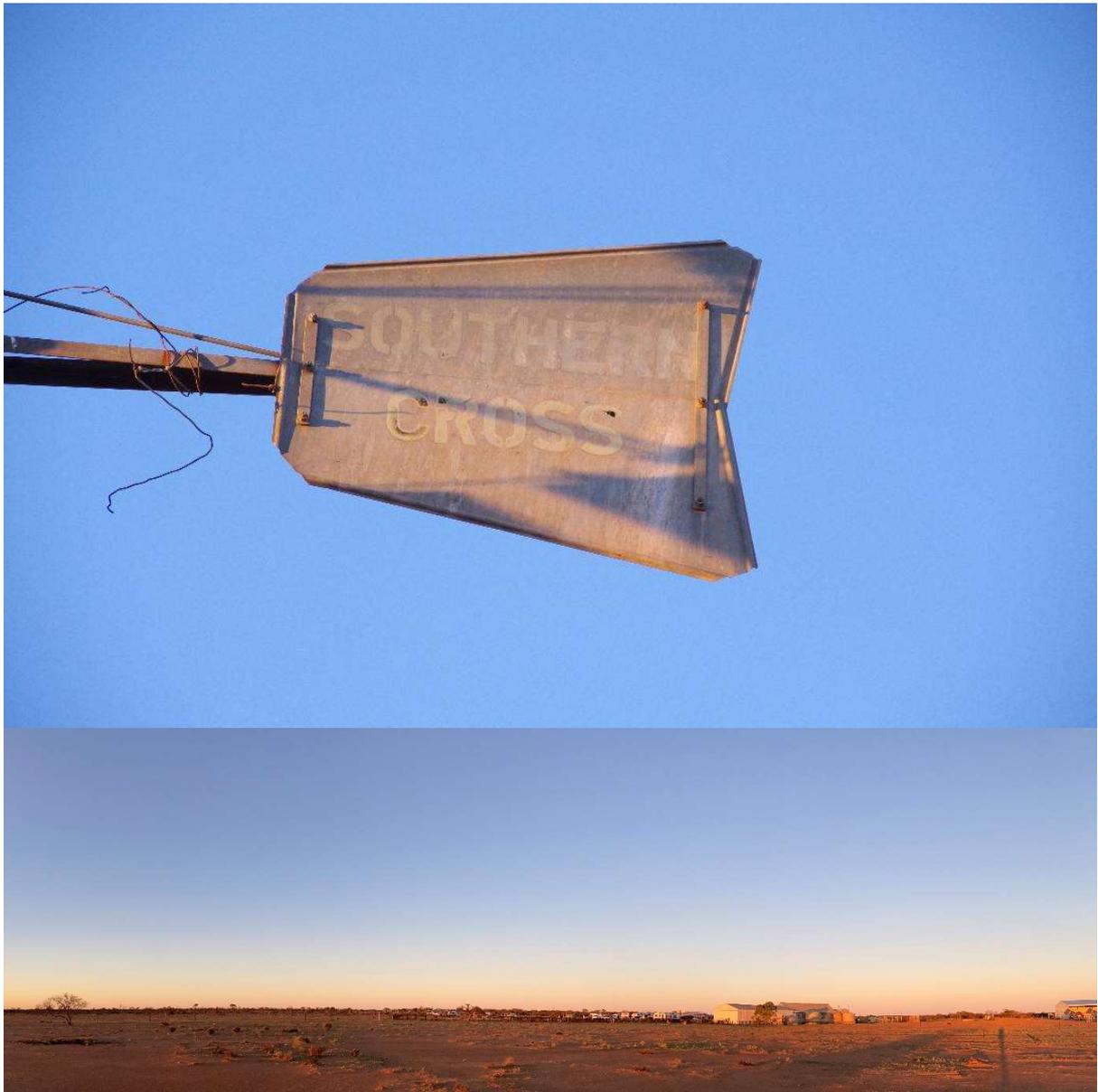






In the morning a few of us got up with the sun to photograph the sunrise. It was a spectacular time of day and the photos were great.





Karen and Damien had two trips happening at the same time with each of them leading a group. We had the Morawa Mob - those who had met at Morawa and waited for us and the first group - the Bindoon Brigade. Karen took her group to the Breakaways and Damien took his group to the big rock.



Along the way to the big rock we stopped to look at an old '55/56 Desoto ute, rusted and decrepit, a vehicle obviously modified for roo dressing. A bit further on, Damien told us to look out for the white bull at the next windmill. We saw the white bull. It was a sign on the mill in the shape of a bull, painted white! Good on ya Damo.





The Rock was a good walk up a large granite rock. It was high enough for Phil to get a phone signal. We walked up to the highest point and then back down the side. We had morning tea when we got back to the cars and then headed back the same way to camp.

After lunch we set up the shearing shed ready for our Christmas in July. The rest of the afternoon was spent preparing dinner and enjoying each other's company.





Our Christmas dinner was superb with all cooks excelling themselves.



Dessert was Christmas pudding, pineapple fruit cake, apple crumble and homemade custard. Divine.
After our dinner there was enough food for a decision to have leftovers for dinner on Sunday night.



Sunday morning took the same format as Saturday with Damien and Karen running their same trips with the other group.

This time Karen took us to The Breakaways. We went in search of a "Lost Lonely Grave" on the way and we found it.



The Breakaways was a bit further on and quite a spectacular landform. We all searched for the "Dog Rock" which Jan had so successfully photographed the day before.





We found it. I also thought I had found a "Wombat Rock."
We climbed down and walked up the creek bed a bit and took lots of photos.
After Morning tea up on top of the ridge we were in our way back to camp. On both days we stopped on the way back to collect wood for our campfire.
The afternoon was spent socialising and some of the better cooks made bread/damper in their camp ovens. It was an appetiser for our repeat Christmas dinner.



Sunset was most spectacular – nothing like clouds to colour up a sky in the evening.



Just before the meal we were accosted by our Fine Master/Mistress. Hertha was successful in fining almost everyone. Then she told us that anyone who hadn't been fined - had a fine. She raised a pile for the RFDS. Again it was a delightful feast and this time for dessert we were fortunate to have a beautiful Christmas cake to have with our leftover custard. Another superb meal. Afterwards we sat for quite a while around an awesome pit of hot coals and large pieces of wood.



On Monday morning Karen and Damien had organised yet another trip. This time it was a quick 20-minute drive out to Burra Lake. It was another high rock which was quite an easy climb for a spectacular view of a large series of lakes. We were back soon after and that was that! Pack up time, and everyone set off in their various directions. Another fabulous Out and About weekend away. Special thanks to Karen and Damien. Awesome job!