



HOLDEN

Welcome to our September 2016 Newsletter!

In this issue, we have focused on items of interest from club members so that we can all get to know each other a little better.

Our president Wendy Juleff, partner Ian and Helen and Alan have had a great time up north recently while many of us have been freezing here in Adelaide. Wendy has written a trip report... have a glass of red and some cheese as you read it! *Jim Wissell*

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‘It doesn’t get any better than this’ by *Wendy Juleff*



This is our toast every night when we clink our glasses at happy hour. How lucky are we to be able to travel in a country where we feel safe camping anywhere. This is being written in Birdsville before our departure for home.

Our short trip started early August with Helen and Alan, meeting up with Marg and John in Alice Springs a week later as John had been unwell. We had a great time taking in the sights of Alice Springs for four days but when we decided to head off to continue our trip, John was still unwell. They made their way back to Adelaide and we decided to travel north to the warmth.

While we were filling up the vehicle at Tennant Creek who should we see but Gavin, Naomi, Hannah and Sarah Chant. We had a great

catch up with them then headed on to Bitter Springs where we had four wonderful days visiting the thermal pools and floating down the river on our noodles. Again we ran into the Chants so another catch up!

While in Alice we saw John Adcock’s brother who suggested we go to the Longreach Waterhole just out of Elliott on our trip up. What an amazing place. We camped around the big waterhole watching Pelicans round up fish and so much more wildlife including brolgas and kangaroos. This is a MUST stop if heading north anytime. We stayed there three nights on the way up and four on the way back. Peaceful and beautiful.

From Bitter Springs onto Adelaide River and then Darwin for five nights where we saw the

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Chants again at the Mindal Beach markets. (They also caught up with Laz and Jane at the Cape and Sue and Simon at Leitchfield. Australia is not so big after all).

We headed south then east on the Barkley Highway stopping at the Camooweal waterhole for a night (Chants suggestion) then onto Mt. Isa where we filled our fridges and cleaned up a bit. From there we headed down to Boulia, camping along the river for a few nights. Boulia has a great moving display about the MinMin lights.

We are now in Birdsville eating curried camel pies which according to their sign says “camel meat tastes like giraffe but not as sweet as zebra”. We go down the Birdsville track tomorrow and home at the end of next week. We received a text from one of the kids saying “you’ve been away for six weeks

already and over seven when you get back, enough is enough, we miss you.” How nice to be missed! It has been wonderful keeping in touch with family and friends with the internet so readily available throughout Australia and we have been following Deb and Steve on their adventures in France, Sandy and Ian in Italy and a son also travelling in Poland and Italy. We have had a wonderful time meeting people seeing wonderful sunsets and scenery, eating delicious food, drinking excellent wines and no...

It doesn't get any better than this... until we go on our next trip.

Look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting.

Wendy

Bruce and Denise Richardson are part of a group of volunteers who have been restoring the very historical site of Farina. It is a wonderful project, preserving our history for our grandchildren.

The Richardsons never do anything half heartedly as you will see in their report. Bruce's dad owned the famous Clarendon Bakery so for Bruce this was a busman's holiday. Thanks Denise for this report. Jim Wissell

Three Weeks at Farina by Denise Richardson

It's 5.00 am, yes in the morning, and we are driving in the cold and dark to start a generator.

The only thing getting me out of bed is the thought of the warm bakehouse I am about to enter!

This was our morning start at Farina for 3 weeks in June 2013.

Like so many people we had heard of Farina, with its underground bakery, and the group trying to keep it together for history's sake. As it happened, the baker who was in charge of getting the old scotch oven going was a friend of Bruce's. We had lent him some equipment the year before and now we were here too. This was to be the last year all the baking was done down in the little bakery, although the oven is still used each year now, the preparation work is all done in a mobile kitchen/ bakery.

To describe the conditions; in the middle of one end are the entrance doors, a screen door and a solid door. Opposite end is all the front of the oven, with a small door into the oven in the middle and two even smaller doors to the right. The top of these is the fire box; the lower is to remove ash. Down below this door is a small pile of mulga wood, from old fence posts, and the rest of the wood is outside. Did I mention that to the door are half a dozen steps down into the bakery, or up every time there is something to take out or bring in? On the left side of the little room is a steel bench, under it are bread tins, trays, bags of flour and our 'fridges' 2 very large eskies. These have to be drained regularly, and topped up with fresh ice. In the corner at the end of this bench on the floor is a small commercial mixer, about 30 litres. On the right side wall is

a prover, a set of shelves where the trays of dough are rested to rise before baking. Then a small bench which fitted to the corner by the door. Set into this bench is a large sink, under which is a 20 litre bucket, our plumbing, and alongside is an urn and a 20 litre drum of water. Yes, that bucket has to be carried up out of the bakery to empty! Hanging across the ceiling are the two peels, paddles with long handles for putting trays into and out of the oven. A few small sundry bakery equipment items and that is it.

After starting the generator, our power source for hot water and mixer, we stoke the fire, and then start mixing the doughs. Once these are mixed and resting, there is time to slip outside and take photographs of the sunrise, around the 'ruins', the bakery is opposite one of the most scenic of the walls, the old hotel. Every day the sunrise is a little different, but always worth watching. Later in the day we like to step out to cool off, it gets very hot down in the bakery, and it's not even summer! After the doughs, we move on to preparing the pastry and cake items. Cooking has to be timed to be done when the oven is hot, and the fire only coals, if more heat is needed nothing can go in until down to coals again. We are bakers, washer-uppers and fire stokers. However the mulga is a lovely wood, burns hot with good lasting coals. For a while we ran out of mulga, and had to adjust our baking schedule, with more fuelling of the firebox.

The basic range consisted of bread dough, made into rolls and loaves, bun dough, made into scrolls and finger buns and the Farina pasty. With very limited room and equipment, pastry was bought readymade, frozen on a roll. To reduce waste, and for ease of making, pasty filling was made into a sausage roll

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instead of cutting circles from the pastry. Other items were made and offered for sale. Sausage rolls, sweet muffins, macaroon tarts. Sometimes there would be a request for special items for the Wednesday night shared camp dinner; apple pies, apricot pies, hamburger rolls. When Bruce's mate from Hamilton joined us, he added yummy biscuits to the menu.

The baked items were taken up to the tent/marquee that was erected nearby. This was the project information centre, coffee shop and bakery sales outlet. Passersby were amazed that the sign on the road advertising a bakery in Farina was not just a joke! Most items sold well, if you wanted fresh bread it was wise to order. The bakery products were also available for morning tea for the other volunteers.

It is only a small oven, and supplies of wood were limited, as were we that year. We tried to finish baking by mid afternoon, and then cleaned up ready for the next day. The fire had to be stoked late in the afternoon and last thing at night, so it did not get too cold to restart baking the next day. And then I had to soak the (white) aprons overnight and rinse out and dry yesterdays. No power in the camp, so no washing machine.

We often had visitors popping in to view the unbelievable bakery in the ghost town. It was fun, both the baking and the explaining. We also had several helpers in the bakery at different times, from the camp volunteers,

from the Whyalla School work experience boys, and Janine from the neighbouring property.

At least once a week we went to Leigh Creek for supplies. The local Foodland was supportive, and stored some of our supplies for us in their fridges. We ordered by fax once a week, courtesy of the station owner, these were delivered from Port Augusta to Leigh Creek a few days later.

It was not all work. We did get to tour the station property, and to get up to Marree, and to do a flight over Lake Eyre. In the late afternoon we all met for happy hour and debrief around the campfire, and on Wednesday dinner was provided to all the volunteers. We met a lot of great people, and some really dedicated volunteers. Jocelyn and Iggy from our club were also among them.

I could go on. About the area, about visiting the neighbouring station, about the work the volunteers were doing, about how we just got out before the road closed due to rain. About how Bruce's mate nearly left the road towing his caravan with a Ford LTD and now has a 4WD.

But I can't show you photos. We took lots, sunrise, around camp, in the bakery, our trips around the area, the flight. But they were still all on the cameras that were stolen from our car 12 months later. Along with many other irreplaceable shots!!!!!!

At least we still have our memories.

The work at Farina is very impressive. Here is a condensed report by the organisers. Jim Wissell

Farina - South Australia

The Farina restoration program continues. The thing I like most about the work being done at Farina is that it is being done by a group of volunteers. They have no vested interest, no backing from a multi-million-dollar corporation. It is a group of people who saw that something could be done and did it. It is also a diverse group of helpers with people coming from all over Australia. Well done to everyone involved.

This year, 163 people representing 104 families nominated for volunteering activity at Farina, a 25% increase on 2015 numbers. Workers arrived to find new accommodation arrangements. The campground has been extended 1000 metres east towards the Marree Road on the Farina Creek, a very natural, pleasant setting.

Week 1 was dedicated to laying the groundwork for an effective campsite, getting the Bakery “cooking”, the merchandise section “selling”, and bringing the new 18 metre x 12 metre Operations Centre shed up to a working model. During last year’s programme the shed was built to lock up stage.

Adverse weather forecasts and some road closures created uncertainty for travellers. This impacted on tourist traffic numbers and campground arrivals. However, the bakery, café and Information Centre staff achieved a significant sales performance to the delight of both customers and volunteers.

Weather caused cancellation of the ‘International Cricket Match’ but the Farina and RAAF 10 Squadron recognition service of Flt Lt Bell and other Australian servicemen, was still able to take place at the War

memorial. A simultaneous service takes place at Ploudaniel in France, honouring the Australian French connection forged during World War 2. RAAF 10 Squadron, Wing Commander Annalisa DeVries conducted the ceremony with other serving members participating.

Eight diverse and separate work teams, each with a well prepared agenda, set about their respective tasks in an amazing separate, but integrated, manner. There was great display of leadership, skill, sense of purpose and good humour across the whole programme. Assistants in their roles were equally as important as the skilled leaders, across all eight teams.

An important 11th hour addition to the basic building last year was the installation of two rainwater tanks off the shed, enabling us to have independent pure water available to supply the bakery and for volunteer usage (45,000 litres).

A larger stonemason programme is being implemented this year, partly from necessity and the rest as planned. One of ‘icon’ buildings, the Post Office, has deteriorated dramatically recently and required intense rectification from our professional stonemasons, Peter and Ron, to secure it for the future. Other buildings receiving attention were the Fettle’s Cottage, both ‘new’ and ‘old’ Police Stations and the Railway Guard cottage.

The standard of workmanship and quality of outcomes in every aspect of activity at Farina reflects great credit on all participants. It is certainly attaining status as an historic inland Australian township.

Peter Bourke is a much loved member of our 4x4 community. Sadly, his health recently has not been good. He is hoping to come to the Whyalla long weekend and to the next TriState. Our love and our thoughts are with you Peter. Here is his report.

Peter Bourke's Health Report

The surgery went according to plan and I've come out the other side with a minimum of fuss.

The incision is healing well without a dressing so I'm fairly low maintenance mode at the moment.

The medico's have been fairly frank and said, "we can't cure this" I'm therefore lining up for 6 months of Chemo, 6 weeks of Radio and a two year clinical trial to try to improve the outlook which is pretty dismal from here.

I'm happy for you to share this with others down at the club because I know they are a caring bunch and it's a bit daunting trying to keep everyone up to date with the bad news.

Technically, I have a GBM grade IV and there are not a lot of laughs to be found if you google that.

Basically, I'm taking all the treatment on offer and it's a matter of hoping for the best.

I reckon I'm alarmed but not alert most of the time.

My daughter Melissa, her Partner Karl and their daughter Indra have moved in to supply the TLC and I'm getting fairly well spoiled most of the time.

Once again, thank you for your care and support. It would be a hard journey to try alone, and I feel surrounded by lots of loving friends.

I hope you're well and enjoying life to the max. That's my basic game plan from here, make the most of every day. I think my days of sensible eating and drinking might be behind me now.

Priorities can change at short notice.

Kind regards to you and all at the club.

Regards. Peter

A Visit to Windsor *by Kym Atwell*

Keeping with our theme of getting to know each other better, we present an article by Kym Atwell. Kym for many years, has been Drum Major for the Royal Caledonian Pipe Band. Kym and Annette have just returned from a wonderful holiday entertaining the Queen and entertaining her. His friends have been teasing him with "Do we bow, salute or is just a nod of the head OK when we see him?"

2016 has seen numerous celebrations marking the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth 11.

The major and most unique of these events was a Royal Pageant held in the grounds of Windsor Castle over four consecutive nights during the month of May. Most Commonwealth countries (and several non-Commonwealth countries) were represented in a non-stop fusion of history and entertainment. Incorporating the latest in

theatrical techniques the event told the story of the Queen's life over 90 years, from toddler to teenager, the war years to the Coronation, through to today.

State carriages, all facets of the armed forces, choirs, the Queen's own racing and private horses, along with racing pigeons and cattle, Pipe Bands, Azerbaijani Cossack riding, Omani Cavalry through to "high octane" Jaguar sports vehicles and many high profile international artists were included.

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Each presentation involved some 900 horses, 1500 participants from 12 nations and a significant parade of ponies, cattle, dogs, Regimental mascots, and the most amazing display of military skills.

Members of the Royal family were in attendance each evening, with the entire family attending the final performance.

Supplementary to this pageant was the International Windsor Horse Show which ran over the same time frame during each day – all in all a non-stop amazing hive of activity and “quite a buzz”.

Australia was represented by two groups – as it turns out both from Adelaide! The first being the Band of the South Australian Police and the second, The Pipes and Drums of The Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia (this is the band of which I have been Drum Major for many years). Quite a feather in the cap for Adelaide and the State and an honour for those participating.

This honour and experience was enhanced by an “unannounced informal visit” to one of our practice sessions by the Queen which enabled all, a personal introduction and later, a formal afternoon tea and presentation to the Queen at Winsor Castle. This invitation was extended to six representatives from each group participating in the pageant. We were also fortunate to be introduced to and have discussion with HRH Princes Philip and Andrew.

Our (the Pipe Band) involvement was as part of a Massed Pipe Band consisting of equal representation from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Irish Guards, The Royal Irish Regiment, The Royal Airforce, South Africa-Cape Town Highlanders and ourselves. During the performance we were accompanied by a passing parade of polo teams, highland dancers, a caber tosser, tug of war teams and The Atholl Highlanders – the sole remaining private army in the UK.

Remaining on the arena we were eventually joined by the entire cast for the Finale which included the National Anthem, a giant birthday cake, happy birthday and three cheers, the departure of the Royal Family and finally our exit.

Most participants were housed “on site” in what as you would expect was a “secure area”. A village of two person self-contained cabins, drying room, change rooms, laundry, dining facilities and R and R facilities plus stabling for 1160 horses made up the majority of what we called home.

Over 60,000 meals were provided and over 100,000 people made up the audience. In addition, thousands frequented the “free” Long Walk area adjacent to the Castle to watch the pageant on huge screens. The performance was also aired on world-wide TV.

It is of interest to note that the event including TV sales, was a non-profit event which meant that participants (local and overseas) were there on a voluntary basis and all profit allocated to a wide range of charities.

From a personal stance, my involvement was a “once in a lifetime” opportunity and a huge honour.

Kym Atwell

PS. I have never seen so many (all black) Land Rover Discovery, Range Rovers and Estates, probably in excess of 100 in one area at the one time – possibly only outdone by an endless array of latest F-Type Jaguars.