

June  
2010



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## *Lake Mungo National Park with Rosie Pfennig and Anita Scholefield*

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On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 six vehicles containing members of the Riverland Four Wheel Drive Club: (Steve and Anita Scholefield, Brenton & Lorraine Jones, Ron and Win Peterson, Murray and Margaret Bradley, Terry and Michelle Page and Paul and Rosie Pfennig) met at Paringa. The morning was a bit foggy but the day promised to be clear and sunny. We left the Paringa Silos at 8.00 am sharp after being informed by our trip leaders, Steve and Anita, of our route, that we were having a royal party on Sunday night because of the Queens Birthday on Monday and we should celebrate this special occasion. On the horizon to the right just heading into Yamba we saw six balloons lifting into the air, which was a great sight. We were also told to pay attention to many items that we would be passing on our way to Mungo because there was going to be a Quiz night that evening.

We arrived at Mildura Plaza at 9.40 am where we shared a tea/coffee break and a few of us, namely the Jones', had to pick up some fresh vegetables because they were travelling further on after the weekend. We also dropped the Page's two children Zac and Oscar off who were staying with their grandparents in Mildura. While at the Plaza a few people decided to visit Cheap as Chips and Reject shop to see if they could get some inspiration for the Royal Night. A few topped up with petrol and we headed towards Mungo National Park across the bridge. We went the scenic route (which means we took a wrong turn). Finding the right direction, we were all counting the number of grids as we were heading towards the National Park.



The scenery was stunning where every piece of the land was covered with trees sprouting new growth and green grass. The stock feeding on this looked healthy and the signs are looking good for the year but only time will tell. They have had good rains in the past couple of weeks because in many places there was water lying on the side of the road.



As we were heading towards Mungo we collected firewood along the way with everyone bringing their own but we all agreed that more would not go astray because it was going to be cold at night.

Upon arrival at the Visitors Centre we all registered and headed towards the



### Meeting Dates

#### *Committee*

7.30pm on Tues July 6<sup>th</sup>  
at Scholefield's.

#### *General Meeting*

July 11<sup>th</sup> at Holland's,  
Cooltong

## Committee

	<u>Office Bearers</u>		<u>Committee Members</u>	
President	Steve Scholefield	0421 648 957	Jenny Schober	8583 7315
Vice President	Paul Pfennig	8584 1280	Bill Wilksch	8583 2230
Secretary	Helen Hall	8595 1288	Rob Howie	8595 3070
Treasurer	Judy Westley	8582 5280	Al Packer	
Events Officer	Andrew Eerden	8584 1365	Charlene Santos	
Newsletter Editor	Geoff Davis	8583 5500		

### *From the President*

Greetings and welcome to another year. We had a very good turnout for the AGM held recently and I would like to thank the members for your vote of confidence in electing me as your President for the forthcoming year. As stated at the AGM, the aim again is to provide you, the members with the opportunity to have fun and enjoy as many trips and events as possible during the year.

Club to support these events and trips to make them worthwhile.

The Committee is always open to suggestions from you, the members, on how we can improve the way we do things, for trip and event suggestions and general feedback for the betterment of the Club – don't be shy – if you have a suggestion, let us know.

Congratulations to those who were elected onto the Committee – to those who are continuing, thank you and I look forward to working with you once again. To the new members of the Committee – Charlene Santos, Geoff Davis and Al Packer – thank you for volunteering and committing to your Club.

Your Committee is looking forward to another great year – it promises to be a good one – wherever you can, please attend an event or trip or help out where able.

Cheers for now.

Steve Scholefield  
President.

The Club has a lot of events and trips planned in the future and the Committee will be working hard to make them enjoyable to all those attending. It is now up to the members of the

Steve Scholefield, President



**Celebrate  
Irish New  
Year  
In  
July**

### *Mungo National Park (cont)*

main camp which had facilities such as toilets, water, a community shelter with BBQ's and separate sections for campers to stay in which is quite different to what most people are used to. We fitted into two sections and everyone set up their accommodation for the weekend. We also noticed at the Visitors Centre that they had hot showers if we wanted to

use them. You can also stay in Shearers Quarters accommodation if you so desire. There were many campers which surprised many of us so its popularity is growing with people on motor bikes, families and different interest groups.

A camp fire was lit very shortly after we arrived due to the cold night anticipated. Happy Hour came

## *Mungo National Park (cont)*

and went along with dinner. At 8.00 p.m. the Mungo Trivia and Talent Quest began. Couples were pitted against each other in a bid to become Mungo Champions. The Trivia section was eagerly fought out, but the Talent section, where couples had to perform a well known song drawn from a hat was less enthusiastically embraced. After a rigorous examination of the scores and results of the Talent quest were added, it was deemed a draw between all 5 couples.

The following morning, all assembled to drive the scenic tour of the national park. Visits were made to the woolshed, Mungo Lake floor and sand dunes, a swamp area where water skiing was performed in the 1970's after a flood, goat capturing dam, and the Homestead. The whole drive and area was very interesting with many photo opportunities.

Arrival back in camp was mid afternoon with some taking the opportunity to use the hot showers at the visitors centre. Happy Hour was transformed into a Royal Tea Party to celebrate the weekend and all in attendance got involved in the spirit of the afternoon – we had visits from 4 Queen Elizabeths, a Royal Butler, the Queen of Hearts, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Prince Charles, Queen Lorraine and King Brenton and Ron and Win who had a unique take on the Royal theme (Ron's middle name is ROY and Win is Ron's ALL, so together they were a ROY ALL couple).

There was a fair bit of initiative, ingenuity and cunning used but the prize went to Margaret Bradley for using 8 garbage bags, 50 cotton buds and lots of sticky tape to make a Royal cape – well done Margaret – special mention must go to Murray Bradley for his fox hat and cardboard ears and Paul Pfennig for using a tartan blanket, flag and bulldog clips for a robe. We certainly got some looks from others as we all stood and gave them a Royal wave each time other campers drove by.

It was a very cold night on the Sunday night



with many choosing to seek the warmth of their beds early. Trip Leader Scoey stayed up and was visited by a strange member of a neighboring camp site – turned out to be a solicitor from Melbourne so not much of a conversation around the camp fire that night.

Monday morning saw all packing away after a frosty night – we headed off to Top Hut Road and to the Pooncarie-Wentworth Road where we had morning tea and bid farewell to the Jones's who were going to Pooncarie for a few days. Lunch was had at the park where the rivers meet in Wentworth before heading to Lake Victoria. Just prior to stopping at the Rufus River regulator, came across member Mark Kalisch on a day trip. Checked out the regulator and made our way back into SA where we said our goodbyes at Stonehenge near Renmark.

The Mungo National Park is certainly worth visiting – lots of history and great scenery. All those attending this trip had a great time and enjoyed each others company.





# EVENTS CALENDAR



DATE 2010	EVENT	TRIP LEADER
<b>July</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meeting	Scholefields
10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting / Irish new year	Steve and Anita Scholefield
18 <sup>th</sup>	Galga / East Murray <b>Cut off date for trip is 11th July</b>	Neil Jacka <b>(Required for catering purposes)</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	Cooper Creek / Birdsville track	Peter and Pat Jones
<b>August</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	PS Industry	Graham and Joy Stoeckel
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Committee meeting	TBA
10 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Lock 8	Rob Howie
<b>September</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meeting	TBA
11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gurra Campout	Andrew & Tracy Gatehouse
25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Clarence Ranges (Murrayville)	Grant & Judy Westley
<b>October</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Morgan and North	Neville and Barbara Dawe
5 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meeting	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Training day	Rob Howie
12 <sup>th</sup>	General meeting	
16 – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Canoeing	Brenton and Janet Beal
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Port Vincent fishing trip	Phil and Julie Turpin
<b>November</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Committee meeting	TBA
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Black Cockatoo camp ground	Al Packer
9 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	TBA
14 <sup>th</sup>	Training / Scrap booking	Eerden / Howies

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## *Winack with Phil and Alison*

On a sunny but chilly Saturday morning members of the Riverland 4WD Club gathered at Stone Henge on the Wentworth Road. There were our honourable trip leaders Phil and Alison joined by Norm Hood (solo), Helen & Lester, Nick & Linda, Brenton & Janet and **last** but not least Ron & Win. Two more vehicles with Mel & Elaine and Geoff & Cheryl were to join us after lunch.

Not far along we were interested to see Lake Woolpolool and then Lake Merreti with water in them, part of an environmental allocation, no doubt. As there had been a good rain a week earlier the tracks were damp, raising no dust and the country was looking fresh and green. Once at Winack there were many signs of rain, with water still in low lying areas and parts of the track washed out.

When we arrived at the “Winack Hilton” – a wood and iron hut near Woton Dam, we found our spots and set up camp. After morning smoko we set out for the working bee part of the weekend. The job in hand was to pick up old, rusty fencing wire from along a sandy track. Just over the fence the pickings were far “richer” and some of us crossed over into the next door paddock and tidied the neighbour’s place as well. All in all it was a very successful campaign as we gathered two large trailer loads of wire.

Back at camp, just after 3 o’clock, we found two more campers were set up. It was then that the really serious part of the weekend, preparation of the “Feral Feast”, commenced!! The drum roaster was hot and rearing to go and the campfire was soon ablaze. The legs of goat and lamb and several bunnies were to be roasted – estimated time for dinner was 7pm. Slowly, but surely, the many helpers made it all come together. Norm made his specialty, bacon and cheese damper. Spuds and pumpkin were in the camp ovens over coals and peas and gravy were similarly cooked. Happy hour stretched from 1 to 2 and then to 3 hours and all the while Janet and her guitar entertained us with a repertoire of songs.

At the magic hour of 7pm the three carvers set to work and we heard the cry “Grub’s Up”. After three hours of chatter there was almost silence as we all thoroughly enjoyed the much anticipated Feral Feast. This was followed a bit later by dessert, a crushed peanut damper with apricot jam, quince honey and cream. “Yum, yum, Norm!!”

After dinner Lester and I were introduced to the quaint custom of warming oneself by placing a small pile of coals under one’s chair. It was quite entertaining as some people misjudged the number of coals required and occupants of the chairs danced around with “hot pants”!!

Sunday morning was also very cool but sunny, with once again no wind. Breakfast was a large pot of “bubble and squeak” created from the Feral Feast leftovers, with the remaining bacon and cheese damper toasted over the coals.

After breakfast we set off on a walk through the scrub. It was easy to see the regeneration that de-stocking and recent rains have encouraged. We walked to a huge wedge tail eagle’s nest, empty at present, but still very impressive.



Time then to pack up the campers and tents as the canvas had dried out, prepare lunch and set off for home. En route we passed through a patch of mallee that had been spectacularly flattened by a storm last spring. A swath, about 1 Km wide stretched through Calperum for about 15 Km. However re-growth is occurring rapidly, some of it already a meter high.

Lunch was further on near the Wentworth Road, at a spot with a panoramic view of the river valley. A pair of wedge tail eagles provided lunchtime entertainment, sailing on thermals several hundred meters above. After thankyou’s and goodbyes were exchanged we all reluctantly headed for home, after yet another enjoyable weekend at Winack, so well hosted by Phill and Alison.

*Trip Reporter—Helen Hall*



## *Meringur Pioneer Village Trip with Rosie and Paul*

On Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 am the following members gathered at the Paringa Silos for a day trip to the Meringur Pioneer Village. Paul and Rosie Pfennig (trip leaders), Murray and Margaret Bradley, Kevin and Bev Bird, Andrew and Tracey Gatehouse, Barry and Raelene Fuller, Ron Wingate, Nick & Linda, Murray and Maralyn, Rodger and Pauline Hunt, Mick and Sandy Logan, Peter and Pat Jones (tail end Charlie). The weather was cool at this time of the morning but it looked as though it would be a fine day. We travelled on the highway towards Mildura turning right at the intersection of Sturt Highway, Neds Corner and the Meringur North Road. While we were heading towards Meringur Kevin and Bev Bird informed the trip members of the Millewa District History. Kevin had worked throughout the area for many years and had an intimate knowledge of the district. He explained that the area is divided up into two mile squares making easy access to properties. All the original farms were established in the 1920s and in 1928 the settlement comprised 700 farms, declining to 200 in 1945. After reallocation in 1948 farms became larger and decreased in numbers again and this trend has continued until present through natural economic pressures.



Originally the Millewa area was an experiment in close settlement dry land farming in the Mallee region, previously sparsely occupied by Latje Latje Aboriginal peoples. It nearly failed due to the limited earthen channels for domestic and stock water supply. This water was pumped from Lake Cullulleraine and in the 1970s Kevin worked with a company that was contracted to install pipelines throughout the area to replace the open channel system. He later worked in the agricultural machinery industry and kept up his associations with the people of the Millewa.

In the early day there were many young families and hence the need for education. There were many small schools established across the district but these have now dwindled to just one located at Werrimull. The original school sites have been officially marked with a commemorative plaque. The Millewa is now a very successful grain growing area, producing some of the country's highest quality hard grain.

We all arrived at the Pioneer Village in time for morning tea. After having morning tea we all headed off in different directions throughout the village to see the attractions that this village has and with 41 site attractions at the village there was lots to see. The village is clearly marked and everyone was given a pamphlet of the site with the information on the part which also had a brief history. Also there are 350 native trees planted in the park and commemorative plaques placed next to each tree with the names of the pioneering families of the dry land farming district. These trees and shrubs were planted in 1986 for their bicentennial year. They also hold an Open Day on the first Sunday in October each year. People from this District have donated many items to this Museum to make it a Pioneer Village to be proud of.

After returning to the BBQ area we all settled in to have our lunch some cooking a BBQ, some have a cold lunch or sandwiches or salads. We were able to sit around and enjoy the sunshine and talk about what we had seen in the village. We made a time after lunch for people who did not finish looking at all of the village items before lunch to complete their tour. At 2.00 pm we all headed home through the Murray-Sunset National Park. Kevin mentioned that where the bitumen road ends at Morkalla was because that was where the train line for grain haulage ended. We went through a locked gate on to Bennets Hut Track and found a memorial to Heitman who had owned a Sheep Stud property and is now owned by the Murray-Sunset National Park.



After the sale of the property he removed the entire black poly pipe from the property and also all the sheep troughs (Murray confessed to owning some the black poly pipe from this property.)



We then travelled to a Pine Tank where we saw the remains of the only one in the area where they used horses to compact the soil between the two circles of pine posts used to make the dam. We also noticed limestone slabs which were used in the Riverland for paving this was ploughed up and transported to the Riverland.

Back in our vehicles we travelled to Taparoo Homestead an out station of Neds Corner Station in the Western half of the Millewa. This property in 1948 was owned by Kidman Pastoral Company and was occupied from 1925 till 1953 by the Osborne Family. On this site is a ground tank, holding yard, the house site which has only the cement paths, some old vehicle bodies and a collapsed shelter. Mate Osborne from Dangall was brought up here on this property.

The only wildlife seen on this trip was kangaroos which were inside the Park area. The group decided to look at the tree plantings that the Riverland Four Wheel Drive Club planted in 1995 which is opposite the quarry outside of Paringa. The trees have grown well only receiving rainfall during the year to sustain them.

It was time to say goodbye to everyone and go home our separate way.

*Paul & Rosie Pfennig  
TripLeaders*

Have you updated your  
PERSONAL PARTICULARS FORM recently?

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This information may save your life!

You should keep the information in an envelope in your vehicle glovebox.

It will be opened only in an emergency by your trip leader.



**Are you prepared for your next trip?**

## HOLLAND'S IRISH NEW YEAR JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup>

Leaders: Steve & Anita Scholefield

Arrive Saturday afternoon for happy hour, Theme for the evening is "Irish New Year" BYO everything, toilet and large hotplate supplied.

The July General meeting will be held on the Sunday at 11.00am followed by a BBQ lunch. Meat will be supplied by the club.

### Galga / East Murray 18<sup>th</sup> July

Leader: Neil Jacka

Meet at the Loxton Club at 8.30am travel to Galga / east Murray area looking at places of interest, lunch will be cooked and supplied by East Murray footy club (not sure of cost at this stage) all proceeds to go to the footy club

### Cooper Creek / Birdsville Track 24<sup>th</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> July

Leaders: Peter and Pat Jones. Phone 85841221

Meet place to be advised, Travel to Marree via Leigh Creek, visit the Birdsville track ferry and Lake Eyre north. Return Via Andamooka, Roxby Downs and Woomera. No Caravans BYO everything to be self sufficient. Approx 2500kms

### PS Industry 1<sup>st</sup> August

Leaders: Graeme and Joy Stoeckel

Take a cruise up the river on the PS Industry followed by Lunch at Bert Dix Park. More details when Graeme and Joy return from their travels.

### Lock 8 and Mulcra Island 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Leaders: Rob Howie and Glen Pascoe Ph. 85953070

Meet at Paringa silos at 8.30am, Travel to the Lock 8 and Mulcra Island via Lindsay Island. An alternate route will be taken if wet. BYO lunch and morning tea, BBQ plate will be available. Approx 200kms.

### Gurra Campout 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September

Leaders: Andrew and Tracy Gatehouse 0428370633

Arrive at Malcolm Wiesmans property at Gurra anytime from Friday evening official start Midday Saturday. Sand driving is available if you want to and there will also be 4 simple and fun driving "competitions" that will be judged.

A catered for Webber style Banquet in the evening, there will be a small cost that is yet to be determined for tea. BYO everything bush camping only 8kms from Berri.

### Clarence Ranges / Murrayville 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September

Leaders: Grant and Judy Westley 85825280

Meet at Loxton Club car park at 8.30am, Travel to Murrayville area for some excellent sand driving and expected wildflower display, bush camping so BYO everything including sand flags and compressor. No caravans. Approx 400kms.



## Riverland 4WD Club

*If you would like to list any "Buy or sell" notices please email to me by the 19th of each month or pass any written notices to me at any general meetings. They will be included as space permits. Thanks, Geoff.*

*Email: [shamon648@bigpond.com](mailto:shamon648@bigpond.com)*

## Wanted

One secondhand 40 to 60 litre 12 volt fridge  
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