

Just Cruisin with Mick and Sally

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Flinders Ranges - 3rd Febuary 2007 until February 4th 2007.

This trip to the Flinders Ranges was 418kms from home.

Sat 3rd February 2007: Our weekend trip of 1,173kms started for us at 6:40am when we headed north this time without the caravan in tow. If we were going to see the areas that we wanted to see, we just didn't have time to have the caravan on the back. We headed to Orroroo as our first destination on our way through to Carrieton where we wanted to have a look at the Yanyarrie Creek just north of Carrieton which suffered extensive flood damage in the recent rain storms that went through the area. After a short stop at Orroroo to talk with Sally's father and brother Geoff, we were soon at the Yanyarrie Creek.

Yanyarrie Creek



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As we continued to head north, we ewere soon at the small town of Cradock where the flood had entered the small township. Looking around the paddocks, there must have been a wide spance of water to be seen let alone the amount of flow which must have been going down the creek just to the north of the town.

Cradock



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Still pushing north, it was on to Hawker where we viewed Wonka Creek which is a few kilometers north of the town. It was this creek where the local Policeman and the head of the local State Emergency Services were stranded for the main night of the flood when they crossed the creek and were on the northern side when the water had cut them off.

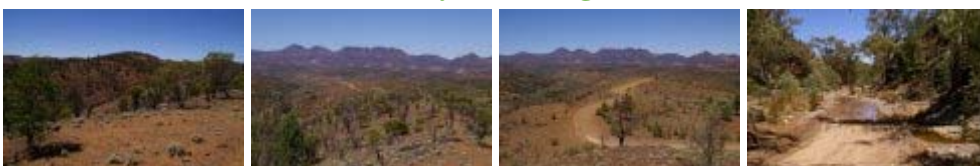
Wonka Creek



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It was 11:40am when we arrived at the self registration station at the start of the Flinders Ranges National Park and the outside temperature was already heating up indicating that we were in for a hot couple of days. Once our \$7.00 daily fee was paid, we ventured on to the Bunyaroo Gorge where the road had only just been opened to the public the day before. We had been hoping for more water to be in the gorge, but that wasn't to be the case.

Bunyaroo Gorge



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After eating our lunch under the shade of a tree at one of the lookouts in Bunyeroo Gorge, we continued to drive through the gorge until we reached the section where it connect with the Brachina Gorge. We turned left which then took us deeper into and through Brachina Gorge before coming out on the Hawker to Leigh Creek road.

Brachina Gorge



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Once on the Leigh Creek road, we headed towards the small railway siding of Parachilna. From here it was a right turn to head back into the ranges and into Parachilna Gorge on our way through to Blinman.

Parachilna Gorge



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From Blinman it was back to Rawnsley Park Station where we had booked a night in one of the holiday units for our overnight stay. As we were going past the Wilpena Pound Resort, we decided to have a look around the camp ground and as expected at this time of the year, there were not too many holiday makers there.

Blinman to Rawnsley Park



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Once back at Rawnsley Park Station, we paid our account and collected the key for our holiday unit for the night and to our pleasant surprise, they had switched the air conditioners on and our room was nice and cool to walk into. With just enough time to have a power snooze, we woke just in time to head to the Woolshed Restaurant for our evening meal. When we thanked them for such a nice meal, we were informed that the Restaurant wasn't normally open for meals during the month of February.

Rawnsley Park Station



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Sun 4th February 2007: Once breakfast was over with and the car was packed, it was time to head off to our last drive for the weekend which was along the Moralana Drive. We found this one to be a pretty drive with the Elder Range to one side and many creeks to cross along the way. Black Gap is part way along the Moralana Drive and for us today required 4WD to access one bad washout and some stone covered creek beds.

Moralana Drive





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Once out the other side and onto the Leigh Creek road, it was off to Port Augusta to visit my brother Kerry and his family before stopping off at my father's house for a bite to eat for lunch. From Port Augusta it was back to Booleroo Centre where we visited Sue and Malcolm for a short while before stopping for tea at Port Wakefield on our way home. Once tea was over and we started to drive away from the Hotel, we could hear a loud squealing noise coming from the engine area of our Patrol. A quick phone call to the local RAA had him inspecting the noise and assuring us that it was ok to drive back to Adelaide. With a slow trip from Port Wakefield to Adelaide, we arrived home at 8:15pm.



