

Just Cruisin with Mick and Sally

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Melrose - 18th April until 20th April 2008.

Melrose is located 269kms north of Adelaide in the Southern Flinders Ranges

Fri 18th April 2008: It was soon after 1.00pm when we started to head towards Melrose with Bruce and Maree for the Lee Kernaghan Rock the Mountain Spirit of the Bush concert which was to be held on the Saturday night. Within an hour of leaving home we arrived at Port Wakefield where we stopped at a caravan yard that had satellite tv systems for sale. We were after a different type of tripod which we could peg to the ground as our existing tripod had no provisions for pegs. After finding out that the tripod on offer was going to cost \$100.00, we decided to come up with a modification to our current tripod for much less money.

On the move again for another two hours and we were soon at Melrose where we presented our concert weekend pass and received our red arm bands for the weekend camping accommodation at the town oval as well as the admission to the concert and the recovery breakfast on the Sunday morning. By purchasing our tickets online prior to arriving at Melrose, we were able to save a few dollars on the booking price.



Last year when we attended this event we stopped at the Melrose Caravan Park not knowing that there were the facilities to camp at the back of the oval in what is a bush camping set up with lots of gum trees. It was a surprise how many people had already arrived and claimed their patch of dirt for the weekend. The numbers had definitely increased in comparison to last year's crowd.

Sat 19th April 2008:



A chicken and champagne breakfast is something that has been in the pipeline for us for some time so we decided that this weekend was as good a time as any to give it a go and to no ones disappointment it all went off very well.

Once our breakfast was over and the dishes done, we set off for a walk around the campground and then into the concert area to position our chairs ready for the concert which started at twelve midday with local talent from around the country which performed on what was called the day stage which was set up along side of the main stage. From here we ventured off to have a look at the Ute Muster which was located along side of the main concert area. There was a good array of Utes and 4WDS ranging from the very old and rusty to the not so old and expensive on display.



From here it was back to watch some of the local talent perform before returning to the caravans for a quick bbq and cold drink. It was excellent being able to move between the concert area and the caravans as the distance was very short

and this allowed us to feed and water ourselves without having to pay the prices that we are all charged at such an event. One thing that this event had going for it was good time keeping with the main concert starting right on time at 4.00pm with the first performer being Dianna Corcoran followed by James Blundell, The McClymonts, The Songbirds and then the main star of the evening Lee Kernaghan. Immediately after Lee Kernaghan had completed his performance, Shea Fisher performed to take the evening through to the 12.00am time slot where the party Band continued into the night.



Main concert area early afternoon.



Dianna Corcoran.



James Blundell.



The McClymonts.





Gina Jeffreys.



Sara Storer.



Beccy Cole.





Lee Kernaghan.



Shea Fisher.

At this point we headed back to the caravans where we had a bbq supper and a few glasses of champagne to compliment what had been a great days entertainment.

Sun 20th April 2008: After a not so early rise to the day we headed over to the entertainment area to the marquee where the recovery breakfast was being held which covered as by a part of our entry fee. For those who didn't have it as part of the entry fee, they were able to purchase it separately at the time. It was interesting and great to see that there was an alcohol breath testing station for people to use to gain some idea as to whether they should drive a vehicle after a heavy night's drinking. While we ate our breakfast, the workers were busy cleaning the entertaining area which was littered with rubbish. Some locations within the campground where the young ones had camped along side of their utes was in a similar state with rubbish left on the ground with no regard to other campers or the people who had to clean it up after they had left.



It was a steady stream of caravan and camper trailers that was leaving as we joined them as we headed for Port Wakefield where we planned on stopping for a counter meal at the Rising Sun Hotel on our way home. If every thing works out in our favour, we plan to go to Melrose next year a day earlier than we did this year to extend what has been a very enjoyable weekend.

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