

Just Cruisin with Mick and Sally

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Murray River South Australia - September 22nd 2006 until October 2nd 2006.

Fri 22nd September 2006 : As I had finished work at midday, I was busy packing when Sally arrived home from her work at around 2.30pm. The final details we attended to and we were finally on the road at 3.00pm heading towards Swan Reach. It was our intension to stop at Swan Reach for the night if we didn't arrive there early enough to give us the time to do the last few kilometers to Big Bend and be set up before it was dark. With time on our side, we made it to Big Bend without any delays and were soon set up with plenty of light to spare. With the satellite TV all set up, we were ready for the footy match between Fremantle and Sydney.



Saturday 23rd September 2006: We woke to an almost perfect day with very little wind and no cloud cover, although as the day progressed the cloud cover increased. Not much was achieved in the first part

of the day with Ruby still getting over her hip operation. This trip was supposed to be to Canberra to see the Floriade display, but with Ruby like she is it was decided to have a relaxing week along the Murray River taking each day as it came. It was no surprise to see so many houseboats on the river with the nice weather that is normally enjoyed this time of the year. Our afternoon was filled watching football and the game between West Coast and Adelaide . It was a good game to watch and both teams can walk away from the game knowing that they had all played very well. It was a balmy evening which turned out to be the calm before the storm. By ten o'clock that night it was blowing a gale with the occasional shower of rain followed by more wind.

Sunday 24th September 2006: The morning was a continuation of the night before with gale force winds and some rain. As the morning progressed, the wind continued to blow at gale force strength. Unfortunately there wasn't very much sun for the solar panels to put much power back into our battery so we had to be mindful of our usage. It was the sort of day than allowed you to catch up on any lost sleep as it was too windy to venture outside other than to allow the dogs to go to the toilet.

Monday 25th September 2006: Even though we had caught up on lost sleep the day before, when we woke soon after 6.00am it was almost a perfect day weather wise. The river was flat and with no cloud cover or wind, we slowly progress through our jobs to get ready to leave for Lyrup Flats which is located Renmark side of Berri. Passing through Loxton on our way, we stopped at Berri to collect a swap and go gas bottle and some groceries for the caravan. While stopped at Berri, we met a young family who have been on the road since December 2005. Their young boy was sitting on the park bench completing some of his school work. Once at Lyrup Flats, we were soon set up and enjoying the sunshine.



Tuesday 26th September 2006: In the past we have found our portable 80 watt solar panel large enough to keep the second battery in our Patrol charged enough to see us through a weekend stopover. To stop beyond the three day period and with some cloud cover, we found that on this current trip, the panel just wasn't big enough to cope with the power demand. For this reason alone, it was off into Berri to enquire about a pure sine wave generator around the 1000 watt output. None available in Berri so it was then onto Renmark where we purchased a 1000 watt Kipor sine wave unit which is small enough to allow it to be stored in the caravan front boot and also light enough for one person to be able to handle it with ease. Arriving back at the caravan by mid morning, the rest of the day was spent doing what all holidays were designed to be used for, relaxing.

Wednesday 27th September 2006: After packing up in the morning to head for Waikerie, we had a short stopover at Berri for Sally to do some quick grocery shopping and then we pushed on towards Waikerie where we intended stopping along the Murray River near the Gliding Club. When we arrived here, we spotted another camper in the location that we had planned to use so we decided to move to Ramco which is a short drive from Waikerie out on the Morgan road. We set up our camp for the night along side of the Ramco boat ramp which has an area suitable for rigs of any size. It was entertaining to watch the Rosellas and Red Rump Parrots as they drank from the nearby boat ramp area. Our location for the night is suitable for big rigs, but limited to only a few as there wasn't much overall room. The lawned picnic area to the opposite side of the boat ramp adds to the appeal of this overnight area.



Thursday 28th September 2006: Once mobile in the morning after breakfast, we unhooked the Patrol and I ran back into Waikerie to top up with diesel and to collect a few final groceries before we headed to Hogwash Bend which was to be our last stop before heading for home on the Monday. Once fueled up and hooked back onto caravan, we left the Ramco Boat Ramp area and headed for Hogwash Bend where it was only a short half hour's drive for the day. We were not surprised to see a large number of campers already building up along the Murray at Hogwash Bend when we arrived. We ventured nearly to the end of the camping area before we selected our location to set up camp. This area is very popular for motor bikes which can become noisy at times. With no wind during our first sun set, it was an opportunity to capture some nice photos of the Murray as the sun was setting.





Friday 29th September 2006 until Sunday 1 st October 2006: Our days here were spent sitting and watching the houseboats, ski boats and holiday makers pass us by as time meant nothing to us. To sit back and have nothing planned and to allow things just to happen, was something different for us as for most of our holidays are normally planned out to allow us to gain full benefit of our time away, but this was nice without that planning. Sunday was a warm to hot day with a windy cool change blowing in during the early afternoon.

Monday 2nd October 2006: With everything packed away, we were soon on the road heading for home after 10 consecutive nights camped along the River Murray without stopping in a Caravan Park. The caravan and Patrol looked like it as well with plenty of dust covering both. After arriving home soon after 11.00am and putting the caravan away, both caravan and Patrol got a quick wash to make them look a bit more respectable.



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