

TRIP REPORT:

WOOMERA TO COOBER PEDY, CADNEY PARK and the PAINTED DESERT

29TH AUGUST 2021 – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2021

TRIP LEADER :- LES

We left Dublin at 9.00am on 29th August and travelled to Woomera, arriving approximately mid-afternoon. After booking into the caravan park, we all set up camp then had “happy hour”.

The following morning, we were preparing to go sight seeing, when Ann Marie and Robert’s 4wd decided it wasn’t going to start. After much fiddling by the men in the group, it decided to start, so then we were able to go to Missile Park.

When we got to Missile Park, Robert turned his car off, but then when he tried to start it again, it wouldn’t start. Robert called the RAA which had to come from Roxby, so as this was going to be a couple of hours, we had time to look around Woomera, visiting Missile Park and the Heritage Museum. Both places offered a lot to see.

Eventually the RAA truck arrived and loaded the 4wd on the back and took it to Roxby for repairs, and so that Robert and Ann Marie could monitor the repairs, the RAA booked them into accommodation. Many thanks to Paul and Linda for taking Robert to Roxby, and Chris for helping Ann Marie pack up the tent then taking her to Roxby. It was really good to see how the group pulled together to help out fellow members.

We had a lovely meal at the Woomera Hotel on Monday night, before going back to the caravan park for a few more drinks and a few laughs.

Tuesday morning we packed up and headed for Coober Pedy, arriving at the Oasis Caravan Park in the afternoon. Once again we set up camp, followed by a relaxing few hours.

Wednesday we all went into Coober Pedy to get our permits so we could go out to the Breakaways. This was really something to see. The colours in the formations are quite spectacular. In the evening we went out again to watch the sunset alter the colours of the Breakaways.

On the way back to camp, Judy suffered an episode which we all thought was asthma because of the dust. When she wasn’t responding to her asthma inhaler and first aid, the decision was made to take her to the Coober Pedy Hospital. There the doctor determined it was anaphylaxis. So after a cocktail of drugs, she started to respond, but spent the night in hospital.

We picked her up the following morning and she seemed all good. Judy now knows she must carry her two Epi-pens with her at all times.

Because of the weather conditions, namely a very strong wind, it was decided to spend an extra day in Coober Pedy before heading off to Cadney Park.

On the morning we were packing up to go to Cadney Park, Vanessa wasn't feeling very well, so she and Ian decided to come back to Adelaide. This turned out to be the right decision, as Vanessa ended up in Flinders Hospital having her appendix removed. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Friday morning we left Coober Pedy and headed for Cadney Park, which is approximately a two hour drive. We booked into the caravan park and was fortunate enough to have the pick of the camp sites. We had enough time to check out the road to the Painted Desert conditions. That night we had a meal at the Cadney Park Roadhouse .

Next morning we got an early start and headed out to the desert. On the way out Paul shredded a tyre, which was changed, and we carried on out to the Painted Desert. It's about 90kms from Cadney Park.

We thought the Breakaways were great, but the Painted Desert is deeper in colour and looks like someone has actually painted the formations and the ground below them. Another spectacular landscape.

We carried on to the Pink Roadhouse at Oodnadatta, where we had lunch before heading back to camp. On the way back we stopped and had a look at the formations from a couple of lookouts and noticed the colour change as the sun passed over them.

Back at camp, some of the group once again had a meal at the roadhouse before starting to pack up ready for an early departure for the long trip home.

When we got to Pimba, the free camp site was full so we went 6 kms up the road to the Woomera Caravan Park. We left at 8.00am on Monday morning for home.

We travelled through to Adelaide with only stops to stretch our legs at Lake Hart, for Paul to have his tyre replaced at Pt Augusta and for fuel, arriving back in Adelaide around 4.00-4.30pm.

We saw some fantastic scenery, a great display of rockets, and aircraft and an impressive museum regarding the history of Woomera.

Report written by Les.

11th September 2021