

Easter 2025 – Mt. Little Station

(near Hawker, Flinders Ranges, SA)

Trip Report

Thursday

With all participants comfortable in how to get to Mt. Little Station, we all set off in our own time and therefore did not travel in convoy. Various routes were taken to Hawker and five vehicles arrived at the dusty but spacious campsite at Mt Little Station by 4:30pm and proceeded to set up our various accommodation types ranging from a tent, camper trailers to a caravan. Toilet facilities were within walking distance and the flies found us within flying distance! Dinner was followed by a campfire that night.

Vanessa

Good Friday (forecast 29 degrees, sunny)

A group of five vehicles had arrived on the Thursday, four vehicles being club members and one being visitors making a total of 9 people.

Friday morning we were keen to look around Mt Little Station, while waiting for the rest of the members to arrive.

We set off at ten taking the track up to Mt Little for scenic views and photo opportunities; A 360 degree panorama of the station and the Elder Ranges to the East.

We then made our way via dusty tracks to Roy's ruins and Museum which had some items of interest for those of us that enjoy looking at old and redundant stuff and the Mt Little Store which had produce and arts and crafts housed in a bunker style building.

For our lunch stop, we made our way to the Mayo Gorge carpark amongst the gum trees and then made our way to the Pirate Cave and the Goat and Goon Saloon.

Pirates Cave is a 45 minute walk there and back to a cave in the side of a Gorge via a very stony creek bed.

Inside the cave there were items of interest which I won't mention, (if you want to know you'll have to take the club trip next time or get on the website and look at the pics).

On our way to the back three vehicles took the steep incline track while the other two vehicles took the easy track back to the main track. The vehicle with the visitors on the easy track had a slight accident, hitting a rock which made the airbags inflate causing some minor injuries to two of the occupants. After a radio call all the vehicles regrouped and after some first aid and damage assessment of the vehicle we all made our way back to camp by which time all the other members that were due, had arrived.

The day was finished off with a session of drinks and banter around the campfire.

Marc and Sandy

Saturday

At 10am we leisurely departed from our camp site and headed to the town of Hawker, which was about 20 km away. Some of us headed to the coffee shops for breakfast and a

look around town. The local Petrol station has a "Seismograph" and other interesting memorabilia. (Luckily it recorded no active earthquakes while we were there!) And some headed off to the "Jeff Morgan Art Gallery", which has a fantastic display of murals and artwork by a very talented artist. (Hawker also has a good dog park in the town for dogs.) Afterwards we all met up at the Hawker Park for lunch. A very neat, tidy park with picnic tables, toilets etc.

After lunch some of us headed off to Jarvis Hill, a great lookout & includes a walk. All went to the Arkaba Lookout (towards Wilpena) then via the Moralana Track (with spectacular views and excellent photo opportunities) back to camp.

All then headed back to camp for a 4pm "Happy Hour" with great snacks & nibbles put on by the 4 wheel drive club.

After making our own dinners, we all sat around the camp fire and recapped the day.

Cathy

Easter Sunday

We left camp at 10am after a quick briefing on the tracks we were going to explore and some chocky Easter Eggs to celebrate Easter. Marc and Sandy, Dave, Ingrid and Lana went to explore Quorn instead of the tracks.

Someone was a little dusty this morning after an enjoyable evening around the campfire!! The fly nets got a workout as the flies were very friendly!

We set off along one of the tracks heading out to see some ruins, the cemetery and the bridge. It was an easy drive with just a few washouts and lots of bull dust. The emus and kangaroos we saw along the way had Cooper's full attention!!

We stopped off to wander through the ruins of Old Hookina Town. The stone masonry was beautiful. We then went on and saw the bridge and the cemetery.

We followed along the Old Ghan Track and back up the other side of Mt Little. This track was a little more challenging and we actually had to put the car into 4 wheel drive. We were rewarded with beautiful panoramic views and numerous kangaroos!

After lunch a few headed back out to explore some more of the tracks.

We headed to the Tavern at 5:30pm for Pizza Night. Everyone agreed they were one of the best pizzas they've ever had.

Jeff (TJ) and Michelle

We ventured out on Sunday afternoon travelling along Elder. Brett led our little troop for our afternoon adventure, followed by Kevin, us (Obees) and Phil & Cathy as tail end Charlie.

Going into Harvey's Rocks was a bit bumpy and then we had a short rocky walk to Harvey's Rocks which were quite Impressive. After taking a few photos we went back to

Elder and then on to Hidden Valley which was basically a dry river bed. Continuing on to Skull tree which had animal skulls hanging on it. NOT HUMAN! thanks goodness. Roy's ruins were derelict and in need of much TLC. The Museum was interesting it even had some animal carcasses sitting in the window, some old machinery and tools. It started life as an old sheering shed. Mount Little store had, dream catchers, candles, infusers and other interesting things for sale including small kangaroo hides for \$85.00.

We then headed back to camp for much need showers and then on to the 'Pizza Joint' for dinner. We all enjoyed our meals with some people trying their more exotic pizzas with Kangaroo and Goat.

Obee and Dee

Easter Monday

We farewelled four of the group this morning, heading back on Easter Monday due to other commitments. The remaining five vehicles headed north onto the Outback Highway and travelled to Parachilna, to have a look around and to have lunch at the famous pub. Alas it is closed on Mondays so it was a good job we all brought our own lunch just in case! After exploring the town and using the new amenities, we retraced our tracks until we turned left towards Brachina Gorge.

It is a beautiful drive through the Gorge, with lots information posts. If you stop at every information post, it would take 3-4 hours to traverse the Gorge. However we all decided to travel at our own pace, stopping occasionally for photos of the rock formations and beautiful scenery, to check out the campgrounds available there, for TJ and Michelle to launch the drone for some footage, and finally because TJ and Michelle came across a vehicle with mechanical problems (radiator and hose issues).

Up went the Star Link to enable the stranded visitors to contact the RAA. The garage at Hawker wondered if they could possibly make it on to bitumen before they would come out. With this in mind, the more mechanical natured members of the club devised a plan that would see the car limp along at 60kph with the radiator topped up with water and no cap on with the plan to monitor the engine temperature dial and to stop just before the bitumen to check on the situation. Ian loaned the group (most from Switzerland) a spare radio to keep in contact. Having made it to bitumen with no real issues, we pressed on, stopping every 20km to top up the radiator and eventually got them back to Hawker where we left them considering their options, but at least they were close to accommodation and a mechanic.

Back at Mt. Little Station, it was quite windy. Preparations were made to reduce any impact by the wind, gazebos and awnings were taken down, more guy wires were installed and a smaller fire was enjoyed on our final night, along with banter around the bush TV.

Tuesday

Those remaining packed up this morning in good time with Chris off almost before I was up! The rest of us were gone by 10am! By all accounts, everyone arrived home safely after an enjoyable farm stay at Mt. Little Station.

Vanessa