



SEFWDC Trip Report

Beyond Binns Track

17 July 2026 to 29 July 2026

Day 1: Timber Creek

Having swapped our planned rest day yesterday, we headed off on the Binns Track in reverse – so off along the Highway and we turned down the dirt road to Bullita Outstation which was only open to 4WD vehicles not towing. This part of the road was pretty good, all things considered and we made decent time. We wanted to visit the Limestone Gorge but the sign at the beginning of the road indicated the road in was closed (we later found out that the campsite was closed but the road in was open). Before the actual Outstation camping area we turned off onto the Humbert Track. It wasn't too bad but was only two parallel tracks a wheel width apart. We averaged about 20kph! Lots of curves, washouts, creek crossings. We stopped at the Fig Tree Walk area for lunch and given the time, we decided to retrace our route back to Timber Creek, arriving about 4pm. Here we met Chris who had arrived about 2:30pm. It was nice to be all back together again and Chris was delighted with his new leaf springs.

Day 2: Timber Creek to Keep River National Park

It was not going to be a long day today so we left at 10am, travelling first to Policeman's Point Lookout with lovely views across the Victoria River. Next was a road that climbed the escarpment where we stopped to view the Nackerloo WWII memorial to soldiers who searched the landscape for Japanese invaders during the war. Then further along the road going even higher we stopped at the second lookout over Timber Creek township with more great views. The Bradshaw Bridge was checked out before we headed out to see the Gregory Tree. This was a nice easy walk through some bush after a 3.5km dirt track. The tree was protected by railings with some information boards detailing some of the history and First Nations people. We returned to a covered area at the start of the dirt track for lunch. Then on to Keep River NP. We checked out Cockatoo Lagoon and did the Ginger's Hill Walk (with the hawk catching area at the top). Janet, Brett and ourselves stayed at the Goorndanalng Campsite which was beautiful, but full, so Chris and Kevin who had booked a bit later, stayed at the Jarnem Campsite another 16km up the road.

Day 3: Keep River National Park to Kununurra

Kevin stayed at the National Park to do several of the walks on offer. The rest of us went on the walk from the Goorndanalng Campsite that took about an hour through various rock formations and grassy areas. A very nice walk indeed. Off we set to Kununurra, getting rid of our rubbish at a truck stop before we entered the quarantine area where each vehicle and camper was searched for fresh fruit, vegetables, honey and plants. It took the four of us nearly an hour to clear the check point. Arriving in Kununurra a bit early to check into the Kimberley Waterfront Caravan Park, we stopped and had lunch at the Wild Mango Cafe (just before it closed on Sunday). Booking into the Caravan Park went smoothly but we were warned to lock everything up as a group of kids were sometimes wandering through the area stealing money, car keys and other items. I did another load of washing (there is dust on everything!). We had a quieter afternoon before Janet and ourselves sat down near the water's edge awaiting the arrival of a gummy freshwater crocodile. We didn't see anything but Chris, Brett and the recently arrived Kevin saw the croc at another part of the park (I need to read maps better!!).

Day 4: Kununurra (Ord River Cruise)

Kevin and ourselves headed off at 11:30am, picked up by a bus, and taken to a spot on Lake Kununurra to start our Ord River Cruise. We travelled on a fast boat (1050hp) up to the dam wall, picked up some more passengers, and then slowly headed back downstream with interesting commentary from our captain Jeff. We saw freshwater crocodiles, many types of birds, lovely gorge scenery and even some short eared rock wallabies, plus a lovely sunset on the way back.

Meanwhile ... Janet got the tyre valves on her camper replaced as they leaked when touched and Brett got a new tyre for his camper. He and Chris booked dinner at the local resort across the road for Wednesday (when we would farewell Brett, Chris and Kevin from this part of the trip). That evening Ian and I cooked scones for supper.

Day 5: Kununurra (Environs)

The day started with a trip to Mirima National Park, only 2km from Kununurra. We all did 3 of the shorter walks through some lovely scenery, similar to Keep River. From there we travelled north to the Hoochery Distillery for some rum and gin tasting and a delicious morning tea. Janet found a GF DF V rum and raisin cheesecake that was nearly the highlight of her day! Next was the Ivanhoe Crossing that had only been opened about 3 days prior (due to the volume of water) so we had a bit of a walk and watched a couple of cars traverse the water covered causeway. On to Kelly's Knob Lookout in Kununurra and then to the Lions Park near the Diversion Dam for lunch. Quite a bit of water was being released and saltwater crocodiles can be found below the Diversion Dam but rarely above it. We spent the afternoon at Molly Springs, a bit of a ride outside Kununurra, followed by a dirt road into a carpark, with picnic tables and long drop toilets. Off we walked along the track to the pool of water which looked delightful with a waterfall splashing into it. Ian and Kevin came prepared and were soon in the water. The rest of us stripped down to undergarments and T-shirts for the females and joined in. The water was cool but refreshing. There was a bit of a ledge to sit on by the waterfall, with the middle of the pool being quite deep. The water was clear and the receptionist at the caravan park had assured me there were no crocodiles of any sort there. We had the place to ourselves for about half an hour. By the time we were leaving, another group was coming in. This was the highlight of our day. Happy hour followed once we had returned to Kununurra.

Day 6: Kununurra (Lake Argyle Cruise)

Chris, Brett, Janet and ourselves headed off in good time on the 70km trip to Lake Argyle to join the 6 hour cruise at 11:30am. Once arriving, we checked out the three lookouts (public toilets in very poor condition) before we headed back to the Lake Argyle Cruise premises. We were bussed down to the boat, which was not full. We travelled at about 35kph and saw plenty of the huge lake with water as far as the eyes could see in some directions. Its capacity is 42 times that of Sydney Harbour. We were shown some short eared rock wallabies and then three varieties of fish including the 7 spotted archer fish which obligingly demonstrated its ability to squirt water at the bread being held for it (and at Brett's camera). Several freshwater crocodiles were spotted. A creek was entered so we could see some of the area's amazing birdlife before we were taken to Amethyst Island for a walk around. The last stop was in a deep section of the lake where about a third of the tour headed in for a swim. Cans of beer were thrown to those who wanted beer, whilst I swam back to the steps for a champers. Nibbles were placed on the upturned lid of an esky and were floated on the water. Once we were all aboard again we were taken back to the start as the sun set over the rocky outcrops. What a great day!

Meanwhile ... Kevin visited El Questro and did a couple of walks including Emma Gorge. We all had dinner together at the Grand Resort as a bit of a farewell to Chris, Brett and Kevin who were leaving the group tomorrow morning.

Day 7: Kununurra to Purnululu

Whilst getting our morning coffee at the on-site cafe, I waved off Kevin and then Brett and Chris as they headed on their way home via the Victoria Highway and then the Stuart Highway. Janet and ourselves headed in the opposite direction on the Victoria Highway before turning left onto the Savannah Highway towards Halls Creek, stopping at Warmun to fuel up and have lunch. Then came the gruelling 65km of dirt road to the Walardi Campsite in the Purnululu National Park – there were small corrugations, large corrugations, stones, dips, bumps, holes, about 6 waterfilled creek crossings, washouts and dry creek crossings. We were forced to stop at the Information Centre, despite already having purchased a National Parks Pass each and booked for the sites – apparently we also had to register too. Unfortunately the person serving us was not overly helpful and we had to go searching for our Parks Pass to physically show her. Finally we could continue onwards to the campground which was still 12km down the road. The sites we picked were of good size on flat ground and fairly close to a couple of long drop toilets. We set up for the evening.

Day 8 Purnululu

Today we headed south to the Pinnacles area, got sunscreened up, donned hats, Ian got out his walking poles, and off we went on the Domes Track for a few hundred meters and then took the Cathedral Gorge Track. We took our time, admired the striking scenery, negotiated steps and ladders and finally arrived at Cathedral Gorge. Spectacular! There was water in sections of the creek and at the end in the Gorge, but the latter was a bit scungy looking, although I did hear a frog. It was a very large area that captivated us. Once we had admired the place and taken enough photos, we enjoyed the slow walk back where we continued on the Domes Track. Janet and I walked along another offshoot track to a smaller gorge, nice but not as impressive as Cathedral Gorge. Once back at the cars we had lunch at a picnic area under shade cloth. We tossed up our options and decided that another 120km on appalling roads was not worth it for 2 more short walks so we headed back to the campsite with the aim of leaving the following day rather than staying the extra night that we had booked.

Day 9: Purnululu to Wolfe Creek Conservation Park

We headed back to the main highway after Janet had popped in at the information centre to advise that we were leaving a day early. We were all pleasantly surprised when Janet was thanked for letting them know and they indicated that they would refund the money we had paid for the third night. Another 53km on the gruelling road before airing up at the parking bays at the beginning of the track. We then continued towards Halls Creek, with Janet turning back to see if she could find the passenger side extension mirror that had disappeared since the last creek crossing – no luck. Ian and I did a bit of shopping at Halls Creek then joined Janet at the fuel station to fill up the car and all the jerry cans in case we could not get fuel at Yuendumu. Unfortunately as Janet was paying, some youths stole her purse and wallet from the front seat of the car, throwing the wallet back less the money. Janet reported it to the local police but there wasn't much they could do. Ian was alerted to the fact he had left his shovel by the pump by a nice lady at the service station. So, we got out of Halls Creek quickly. We stopped and had a bite to eat for lunch outside of the town and then headed to Wolfe Creek Conservation Park for the night. We understood that the first 17km of the Tanami Road was sealed but found about the first 60km was sealed and the next 40km was being worked on, so we travelled on a relatively good compacted dirt road until the roadworks ended. Then it was the Tanami Road we thought it would be – lots of corrugation but a reasonably straight road. We finally made it to Wolfe Creek only to find the campground pretty full. Janet managed to share a site whilst Ian and I ended up in the day visiting area for the night. Just as the sun was setting, Ian and I climbed to the top of the rim

to have a look at the meteorite crater. Dinner then bed. Ian got chatting to the people camped next to us, who had a drone and have kindly provided the link to their drone footage of the crater. (<https://youtu.be/YrvL8gr7hrs?si=afHP0E217Xp3lrPF>) You can see Ian and our camper towards the end of the video, which only runs for about a minute.

Day 10: Wolfe Creek Conservation Park to a Bush Camp

Janet arrived at the day camping area after having to resort to kicking her dust encrusted steps before they retracted. Janet and I walked to the top of the rim and admired the views. You can walk around the rim but the path is not well defined, there are rocks and boulders to climb over or walk around and it is 3.4km in total – so we decided not to do that today! Once ready, we headed back on to the Tanami Road, a far better road than the one into Purnululu. There were some smaller corrugations that speed fixed, some larger corrugations that we had to slow down for, a few rough patches but we managed 80-90kph for the majority of the time. We pulled off around the WA/NT border for lunch, serenaded by zebra finches and annoyed by flies. Then around 4:00pm we found a gravelled area so we pulled off into that for the night. No-one else joined us so we had the place to ourselves. Our original punctured tyre that we repaired let go again and went flat – so another wheel change. We heard dingoes in the distance and the straining of the road trains as they traversed every corrugation, not getting up enough speed to go across them. We had dinner and a chat before all retiring for the night. Ian got Telstra coverage from the mine we could see lights for in the distance (about 39km away).

Day 11: Bush Camp to Tilmouth Well

Ian and I slept in a bit so we were a little later than planned leaving the camp. The plan was to head to Tilmouth Well and see how we were going. So more of the same dirt road with corrugations. We met caravans and a small number of road trains (cattle transporters) who obligingly pulled over to the right to let us pass on the non dusty side of the road. There were a few mine vehicles on the road too. We encountered more roadworks and another section of about 45km of compacted dirt road while trucks, graders and rollers prepared another section for sealing. Eventually we hit the sealed section, 140km this side of Yuendumu. What a lovely ride after so much dirt and corrugations! We got to Tilmouth Well around 3pm and decided to stay there the night at the Roadhouse campground (\$30 for a powered site) with a nice grassed area, showers and flushing toilets! Using Ian's phone (with coverage) I phoned Alice Springs to extend our booking to a day earlier than we had already booked for, whilst Janet moved her booking a day forward.

Day 12: Tilmouth Well to Alice Springs

Ian and I slept in a bit again but we all managed to be on our way by 10am. A little after Tilmouth Well, the Tanami Road went down to a single sealed lane so we were constantly having to pull over a bit for oncoming traffic and were totally on dirt when a road train or bus was oncoming. With about 60km to go the road finally became dual lane again. Once in Alice Springs, Janet booked into the caravan park whilst Ian and I dropped the punctured tyre into Bridgestones to get repaired before we booked into the caravan park. In the afternoon we picked up the repaired tyre (free because it was a Bridgestone tyre!) and did a bit of shopping before we joined Janet for a farewell pizza at the Alice Springs Brewing Co. across the road from the caravan park.

Day 13: Alice Springs

The trip officially ended at 9am this morning, with those on the trip all now busy doing chores before making our own ways home.

Vanessa