

Butler's Farm, Yorke Peninsula

Saturday 4th - Monday 6th October 2014

Les and Eileen arrived a few days prior to the main group to prepare the site on Les's brother, Colin's farm, just north of Minlaton. They collected and chopped wood more than enough for the weekend.



The camping area, including sites, children's' play equipment, fire pit, campfire tools and toilet were all 5-star! (Some people still need a little more practise at raising and lowering the toilet flag!). There were 16 couples/families and a few canines (very cute) who camped at the farm.

Those who arrived on Friday had an opportunity to meet and have a ride on the Clydesdale horses. Terri, although quite petrified managed to ride one successfully! Les took videos of the horse riders, as proof of our bravery. Thank you to Ruby for providing the names of the horses for the report, namely Rosie, Harry, Lester, Mr. Tim, Jenny and Sox.

Saturday morning activities were optional with some attending the Stansbury market, touring the region or staying put. We ordered homemade pasties, sausage rolls and cakes which were delivered on Sunday. Saturday afternoon we enjoyed cart rides around the farm. This activity was a real hit with adults and children alike.



Thanks to Colin for organising for a few of his friends to come with their horses as well. Colin demonstrated his prowess with his horses showing us what tricks the Clydesdales could do.



Saturday night tea consisted of camp oven cooking and bbq over hot coals. We then had a spectacular bonfire to burn trees and limbs that had fallen on the property over the last 12 months.

Sunday we set off in convoy for a drive along the south western coast of Yorke Peninsula. Les and Eileen's son, Greg, met us at Hardwicke Bay and guided us on our tour for the day. We started with a drive along the beach from Hardwicke Bay to Point Turton stopping along the way for morning tea.

It was an easy drive for most of the vehicles except for Morris and Terri's little Suzuki which didn't have quite enough clearance to get over the sand and seaweed! Martin threw out a strap and just pulled them along!

Along the coast road to Corny Point, we stopped at the lighthouse car park for lunch. It was an opportunity for some to experiment with their newly acquired 'Travel Buddy' ovens to heat up their freshly baked pasties. Beautiful seascape views included seals looking for food near a reef. We followed the coastline, stopping now and again at some surfing beaches and then back to camp via some fire tracks and the main road. Some were desperately trying to find a shop open on the way back to camp for an ice-cream. Back at camp, Jim offered to sell some of his ice-cream supplies!

On Monday, Colin and Les demonstrated how an older binder is used to cut sheaved hay. We then had a tour of the sheds, where some antique farm machinery is stored, including a winnower, used to separate the grain from the chaff or straw. Cow hide was also hung in the shed in preparation for whip making.



Colin's skills were also a sight to behold with his whip cracking demonstration using whips that he has expertly handmade. With some guidance from Colin some of us had a go at whip cracking with limited success.



The wind came up later in the morning requiring some extra pegging down of awnings followed by a relaxing afternoon at camp chatting and sharing some of our homemade cake purchases! We weren't able to have a campfire that night due to the weather conditions, so 26 of us ventured into the Minlaton Hotel's Red Devil Restaurant for dinner. The restaurant is named after Captain Harry Butler's famous plane. And yes, Les and Colin are direct descendants of Harry who was born and raised at the farm. You can check out some history of Harry Butler's achievements and view the 'Red Devil' as you enter the town and also at the National Trust Museum in Minlaton.

Thanks to Colin and Annette for sharing their property and to Les and Eileen for arranging such a wonderful club event. The time and dedication they all put in to preparing the memorable weekend is very much appreciated. We all look forward to returning to Butler's Farm to help celebrate the Club's 40th anniversary in October this year.

Lea and Jim