

Warburton Crossing

5th - 13th July 2014

Trip leader
Stuart B

Day 1 (*Iain , Tracey and Emilee*)

We all met at Caltex Bolivar at 8am for an 8.30am departure.

Six vehicles in total

Stuart and Craig in a Cruiser

John , Sam , Caitlin and Bradley in a Cruiser

Iain , Tracey and Emilee (Emilees first trip) in a Cruiser

Ewan and Dee in a Prado

Wal and Kerry in a Patrol

Tom and Jackie in a Cruiser (tail end Charlie)

We left at 8.30 and proceeded at a steady pace along Port Wakefield rd. The weather was being kind to us as the rain held off and the traffic fairly light.



We were lucky to spot the Pichi Richi train about 30ks from Quorn where we stopped for lunch (nothing open by the way), then on to Lyndhurst and a fuel stop for some.



After leaving Lyndhurst it was on to Farina and our first campsite reaching it around 4pm, after setting up camp the fire was lit and meals were had, we settled by the fire as it was a very cold night.





Warburton Crossing

6th JULY 2014

*“We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world,
and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.”*

— Robert Louis Stevenson

Day 2 (Ewen & Dee)

Day two of the Warburton Crossing expedition was primarily a travel leg from Farina to Warburton Crossing. However, the day started with great promise as a light frost covered the Farina Campground under a clear blue sky.

For those who have not been to the camp ground it is located 25 kilometers (or so) north of Lyndhurst.

The local tourist guide says that the site is a great stop over on the way to Maree before either heading up the Oodnadatta or Birdsville tracks. Access to the campground is along a well kept gravel road, and is a handy spot from which to explore the ruins of old Farina.

The camp has flushing toilets and a donkey heated shower, so the camp fees of \$5 per night per person are very reasonable. Also, there is a well kept War Memorial on a hill above the camp, and this memorial provides a history of local involvement in both World Wars.

Enough about the Farina Campground, and the expedition team started the day working to overcome a battery issue with the Ewan and Dee’s vehicle. Following this feat of bush engineering excellence the expedition moved into exploration mode in the wilds that are the ruins of old Farina.



It should be noted that the ruins are being restored via donations and collecting camp fees along with plenty of work undertaken by a significant number of local volunteers. The local tourist guide suggests one to two hours are required to explore the historic town with its many ruins. The old town

was first surveyed in 1878, and the 1890 bakery is open for business once again. If you arrive early it is possible to have a guided tour of the below ground bakery ovens and hear the tour guide pass on some of the history of the historic town site that is old Farina.



After leaving Farina about 9 am, the expedition travelled north towards Mungerannie, on the Birdsville Track. During this part of the day, several emus and a lone dingo was spotted by the passing convoy.

The road was in good condition, but dusty as is expected along any Australian outback country highway. Arriving for lunch at Mungerannie Hotel, some of the expedition members explored the local hot springs, while others tried the fare of the local hotel.



All expedition members observed that diesel was \$2.05 per liter, and this generated significant debate on whether to refuel or not. Some did (refuel) but most chose to acquire fuel at a later local.



Following lunch, the expedition recommenced its journey once again in a northerly direction along the Birdsville Track. Towards 3 pm a left turn moved the travelling column from the Birdsville track to the north westerly route of the Warburton Track.

By 3.30 pm a night time camp site in an old cattle yard was selected. Although the site of the famed Warburton Crossing was unclear, this geographical landmark was passed largely unnoticed by the expedition members.



However, all in all, day two was a fun day with many honest friends traveling together in the Australian outback wilderness.

To be continued (hopefully) 