



Overland 4WD Club of SA Incorporated

Wandillah, Burra – 7-10 June 2013



Due to the cancellation of the social camping weekend at Burra, a last minute invitation was extended to those registered to camp out at Wandillah Homestead at Burra, hosted by Mark and me, and our family. Tracey and Iain, and Phil and Sue accepted the invitation so on Friday night we met at the Exchange Hotel in Burra North for dinner, before eight of us headed out to the property, about 15km north of the township. On arrival, we organised ourselves, lit a big fire in the fireplace and settled in for the evening with drinks and a chat.

On Saturday we woke to a fine and clear morning - some of us got up earlier than others... After a big cook-up of bacon and eggs for breakfast, Phil and Sue finished erecting their camper trailer in the daylight while Tracey and Iain drove back into Burra for extra supplies and to look around.

After lunch, Mark took everyone on a tour of the huge property at Wandillah. Kangaroos have bred up and there are now hundreds roaming the paddocks, along with the sheep and cattle. We saw emus, a rabbit or two, lots of baby lambs (even a black one) and a newborn calf who was still struggling to find its feet, as the convoy of three 4WDs drove slowly past.



On return, we lit the Weber and cooked up a leg of lamb with lots of veggies, followed by dessert. After dinner the men went spotlighting, while us sensible ones spent another quiet evening chatting by the fire.

Sunday: After a sleep-in (OK... well I did!) and another big breakfast of bacon and eggs, we gathered up some supplies for a trek out to Mount Bryan, which is east of Mt Bryan, the town. Following chain roads through the paddocks out from Wandillah, we travelled through Mokota Conservation Park.

After stopping to check out the huge blade of a wind tower that's on display, we headed out on the bitumen towards Hallett before turning back onto dirt and following the tracks to the



Mount Bryan is reported to be the

highest peak in the Mount Lofty Ranges (932m or 3071ft). The Heysen Trail treks through here, too. At the top of the peak, a memorial chair has been built using fancy stonework to decorate it. A cairn has





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also been erected, dedicated to the original settlers in the area. What fantastic views from the top!

The map shows the area we travelled.



After heading down the mountain, we stopped and had a look around the old Mt Bryan East School which is now used as a stop-over for Heysen Trail trekkers, before arriving back at Wandillah late in the afternoon. We lit a huge bon-fire outside in the paddock, before preparing heaps of food for a BBQ as we had guests for dinner - Richard and Martine, the owners of Wandillah, and their four dogs (3 kelpies and a Labrador)! It was an interesting sight to see everyone lounging by the fire, including five dogs! We kicked our visitors out just before midnight, as we were all exhausted (I don't know why...!)

The sun was shining and the sky was blue when we woke on Monday. All hands were on deck to organise breakfast and then tidy up before we all said good-byes and departed for home. We enjoyed a wonderful weekend - good weather, good company and beautiful countryside.

Carolyn