

Otways to Alice - 30th Anniversary Ride

April 2010



This ride was made exceptional due to the heavy rain received (record falls in many areas) in the areas travelled immediately prior to our arrival.

We have ridden these tracks often but never before experienced the road closures, flooding and bogs, experienced this time. An outstanding ride.

BoM Report.

South Australia April 2010

Intense areas of rain and thunderstorms ahead of the upper trough caused localised flooding in the Southeast Northwest Pastoral District on the 9th, with record rainfalls set at several locations.

Roxby Downs Station had 124.0 mm to 9am on the 9th, Roxby Downs (Olympic Dam Aerodrome) had 86.0 mm, Andamooka 85mm, Yardea 80.0 mm, Leigh Creek Airport 67.4mm, Beltana Roadhouse 54.2mm, Parachilna (Motpena) 30.0 mm and Tarcoola Aero 27.0 mm.

Most rainfall totals recorded in the pastoral districts were above average, and generally ranged from 30 to 100mm. The highest monthly total of 156.0mm was recorded at Andamooka. The lowest of 18.0 mm was recorded at Coober Pedy Airport.

Present:

Ben Goodman and Wayne MacCarthy:	Nissan Patrol 4.2 Diesel Turbo Wagon.
Peter Walsh - who did most of the prep:	KTM
Peter Black:	BMW
Mike Burton:	Suzuki 400E
Ken Butler:	Suzuki 400E
Allan Blenkins:	KTM

Regulars not able to be with us:

Peter Whitaker:	Defected to the Targa Tasmania
Gavin Morriset:	Still recovering from last years Roo collision at speed.
Terry Zarzoff:	Last minute withdrawal with shoulder injury.
John Bennett:	Retired
Patrick Dwyer, Peter Harrington,	Crook
Dave Law:	Broken leg
Bob Morrison:	Got remarried.

The Originals



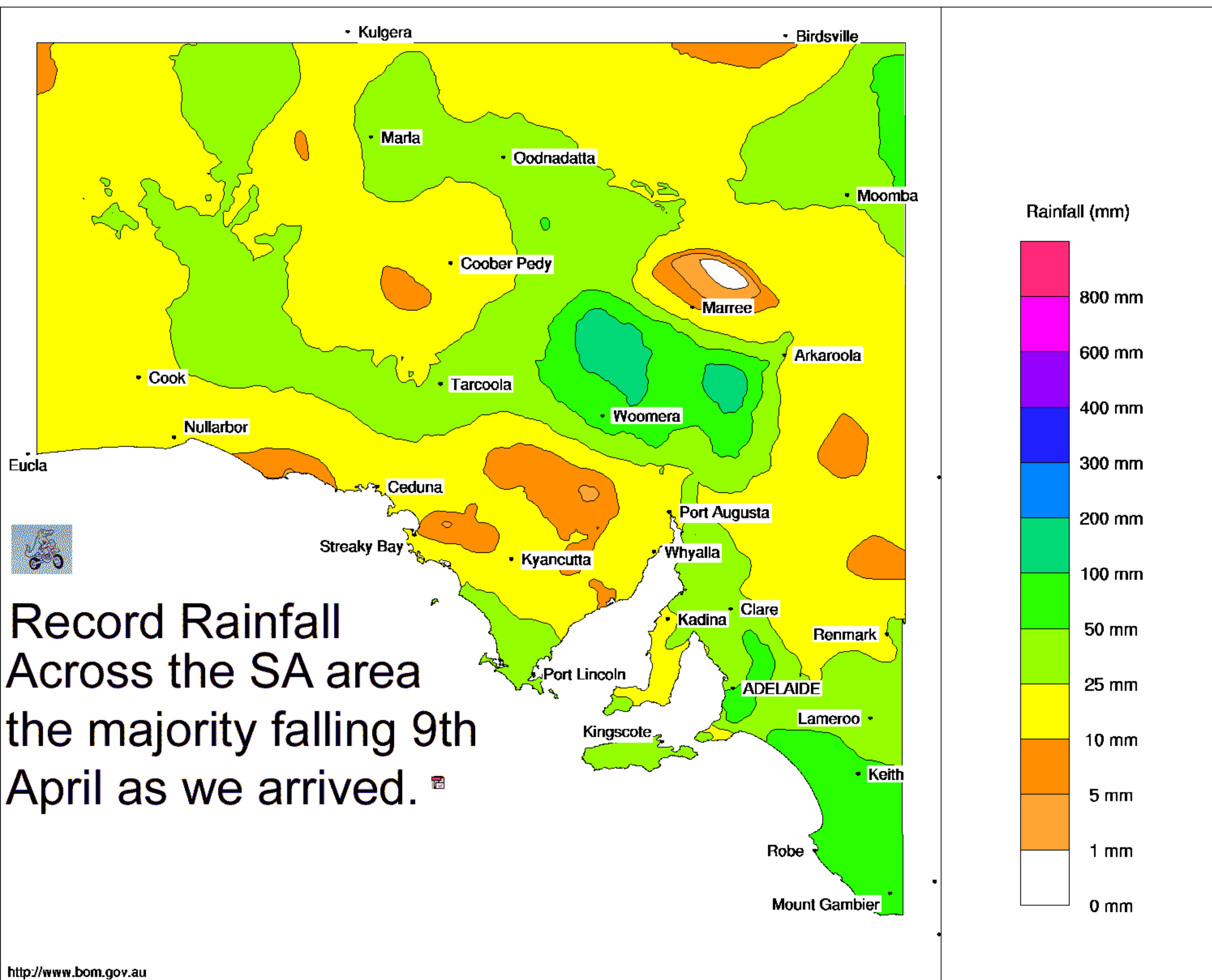
2nd Annual Ride June 1982

Adelaide to Alice

Arkaroola, Marree, Coober Pedy, Uluru



The riders on this first cross country journey were a truly eclectic bunch however the choice of machinery was homogenous - the Honda XL250. With the exception of Araldited Acerbis tanks for the Cape York survivors the bikes came straight off the showroom floor. Top, from left to right; Pedro, Gavin, JB, Bob, Patrick and Wayne. Bottom; same crew in less serious attire with cameraman Bob missing.





Both tracks to Alice totally flooded and impossible to cross

Otways to Alice - 30th Anniversary Ride

Floods changed planned route

Teetumula Woolshed

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World's largest cattle station (24,000 sq. km).

The Bikers:

Mike
Burton

Peter
Black

Allan
Blenkins

Ken
Butler

Peter
Walsh





In the Nissan Patrol



Ben Goodman

Wayne McCarthy

Nissan Patrol prepared by CalOffroad

4.2 Turbo Deisel motor,

CalOffroad 2" Suspension Lift & 2" Body Lift

15" x 8" Steel Rims, Dick Cepek 33" Radial FC II Tyres

Twin 240 mm Lightforce XGT Spots + Much More





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Day 1 (9th April): Geelong to Mortlake = 310ks

Geelong to Anglesea on main roads.

Through the Otways to Great Ocean Road just before Twelve Apostles.

Some great ocean views before heading into Port Campbell for coffee.

Then on to Mortlake for the first night.

Mount Shadwell Hotel

Day 2 (10th): Mortlake to Pinnaroo = 477 ks

Raining on and off.

A fair amount of black top to the Grampian National Park.

Play in the rain and slippery mud conditions on the back tracks through the Grampians.

A mixture of mainly dirt roads up to and through the Little Desert National Park into Nhill.

North for most of the Nhill Murrayville Track notoriously slippery when wet, before cutting west into Pinnaroo.

Pinnaroo Motel



Locked Gate no problem for the
Nissan Patrol









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Day 3 (11th): Pinnaroo to Yunta = 454 ks

North to Renmark, via the SA/Vic Border Fence Track entered 5kms east of Pinnaroo (mostly sand) and joining other dirt back roads west of the fence into Renmark.

North to Calperim, through the Dangali Conservation Park to Morgan Vale.

Sturt Vale, Lilydale, Tiverton; Yunta.

Good dirt tracks all the way.

Yunta Hotel

Day 4(12th): Yunta to Arkaroola = 298 ks

Normally good fast dirt roads or tracks in all the way.

However after rain this changes drastically.

All roads North out of Yunta signed as Closed to all traffic.

Yunta Police were away for the period.

The nearest police gave us "conditional" approval to proceed to Arkaroola.

"Conditions:"

1) Don't tell anyone we said so!

2) Expected if no more rain the road would be open to limited use by 4wd's later in the day. (Which it never was into Arkaroola)

"Teetumula" Woolshed just North of Yunta – Invited to see shearing (trainee TAFE students)

Curnamona, Frome Downs, Wertaloona, into Arkaroola.

Plenty of mud!

On arrival at Arkaroola:

All 4 roads in/out closed for all vehicles.

Copley Rd (major supply and access route, severe washouts at all creek crossings, would be many days before 2wd's would get in (or out)

Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary – Greenwood Lodge



Day 3

Vic SA Border Fence Track North from Pinnaroo

Border
Track
4x4 only

Border
Track























Day 3
Yunta Hotel





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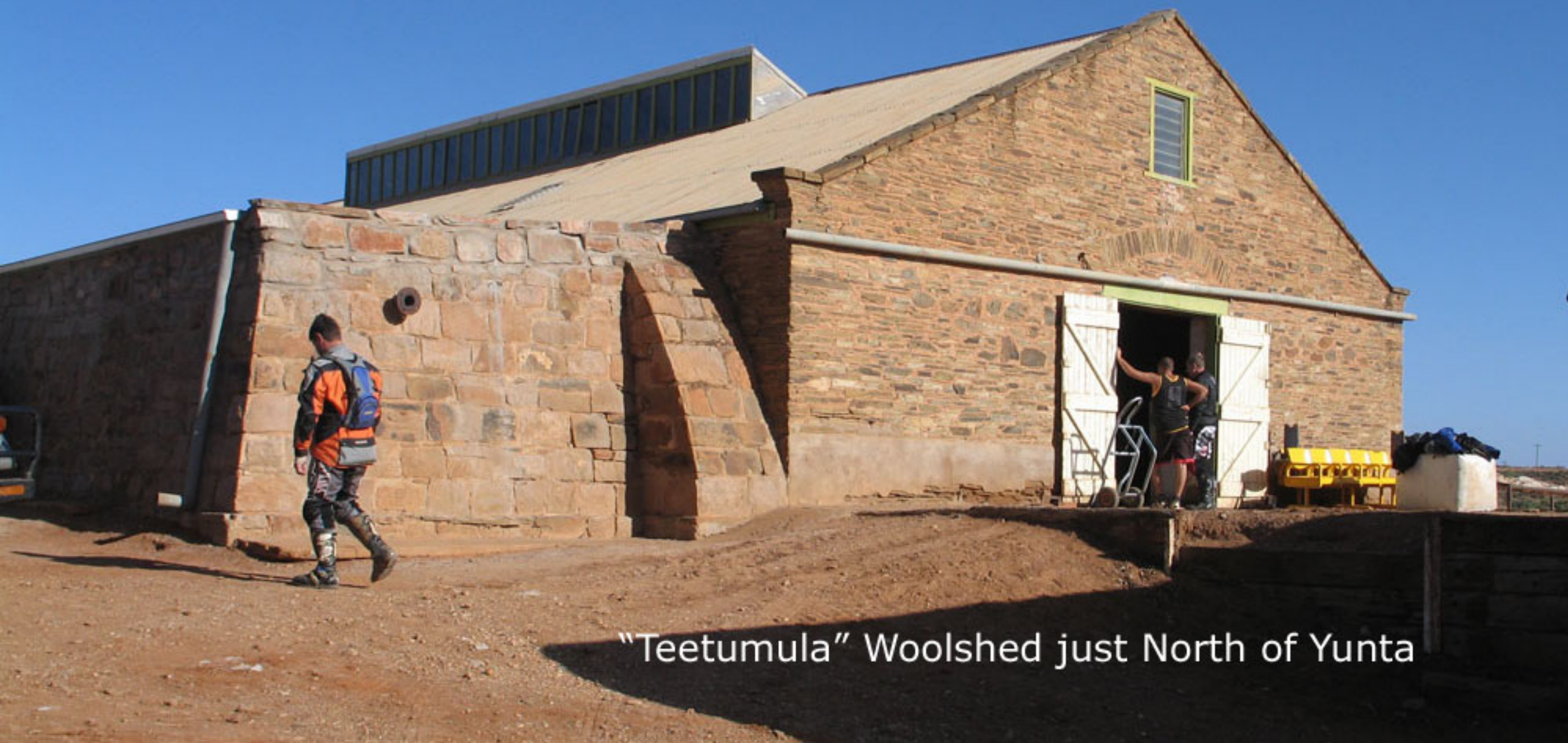






All roads North out of Yunta signed as Closed to all traffic.





"Teetumula" Woolshed just North of Yunta

















Streaky Bay
Shearing
09 8626 7588
0407 816 32

MRS
1962





35 YUNTA



ARKARoola 266









KH ♡ Meg

Mike about to remove the cylinder head to repair a sticking accelerator cable
observed by a dubious Blackie



Relieved to find Blackie's cure of a shot of WD40 and a screwdriver to the throttle control worked perfectly









Arkaroola







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Day 5 (13th): Arkaroola to (Andamooka aborted) - Marree = 244 ks

All 4 roads out of Andamooka closed to all traffic – Copley Road one of the worst.

Planned route Arkaroola to Andamooka via Mulgaria and following day on to Cooper Pedy impassable and likely to remain so for many days. Andamooka had 85mm on 9th and 156mm month to date.

If we can get out of Arkaroola decided to go to Marree and then get back on plan to Coober Pedy the following day.

Decided to leave Arkaroola via the back mountain track through Yankaninna and Oleandana joining the Copley Rd half way to Leigh Creek – thus avoiding passing the statutory "Road Closed" signs.

The track was great, the Copley Road when we joined it was as bad as reported. Daryl in a Nissan GU with trailer (we met in Arkaroola) told us (UHF) that he left 2 days later and had to winch out of at least one crossing! On the Copley Rd.

Leigh Creek to Marree wet but no real problems.

Marree Hotel

Day 6 (14th): Marree to Coober Pedy = 364 ks

Via William Creek

Lake Eyre South as Full as we have ever seen it.

Wet but mostly easy going.

Mud Hut Hotel

Day 5

Yankaninna track - Arkaroola





















Copley Road West of Yankaninna Track









Marree







Day 6
Marree to William Creek – Dessert Art





Lake Eyre South - as full as we have ever seen it.





Coward Springs Old Ghan Rail





William Creek to Coober Pedy













Dr Peter in action on Ken - no one else concerned



Coober Pedy













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Day 7 (15th) : Coober Pedy to Mount Dare = 442 ks

Via Oodnadatta and Dalhousie springs

Coober Pedy to Oodnadatta through part of the Painted Desert, fast good road with no real problems, except for Ken who hit a washaway at speed and rooted his back.

Consequently, rather than face the difficult terrain we expected into Mt Dare, he left us after lunch at Oodnadatta and rode into Alice solo via Marla and the Stuart Highway.

At Oodnadatta we were warned that the track to Mt Dare was very wet!

The local police had bogged on it "yesterday" and after seeking help, were lucky to get out.

The police advised that although officially open to 4wd's "it should not be" because of major flooding and mud.

There was also a strong possibility that the tracks from Mt Dare north would be impossible.

Decided to go anyway.

The bikers got their feet wet but otherwise handled it all with little problem.

Some near misses in the Nissan – with mud deep enough to cover the spotlights.

Needed to take the diversion around the Fogarty Claypan but it was well marked and OK.

There was particularly deep flooding where the "road" doubled as water courses in and around Mt Dare homestead, which required some unmarked unplanned and potentially disastrous diversions in the truck being led around by the bikes!

Mt Dare Hotel

Day 7

Out of Coober Pedy toward Oodnadatta







ROADH

OODNADATTA

ROADHOUSE & GENERAL STORE
GROCERIES SMALLGOODS FRUIT & VEG.
MILK CREAM
FROZEN FOODS
ICE

VORSNE

SAVINGS BANK
OF AUSTRALIA

POST



SIMPSON DESERT
 4. SALINITY THERMAL
 Pools and Shrub
 Pools and Shrub



HOUSE



First of many just North of Oodnadatta toward Mt Dare

















Foretaste of the next 200ks to Mr Dare

Dalhousie Ruins



Dalhousie Springs









The "road" around and into Mt Dare







5
WALKING PACE

Mt. Dare
HOTEL



Mt. Dare
HOTEL





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Otways to Alice - April 2010 – 30th Anniversary Ride

Day 8 (16th): Mount Dare to Alice Springs = 567 ks Total distance = 3156 kms

The original plan was to go via Charlotte Waters, New Crown, Andado, Old Andado, Santa Teresa, on to Alice. This was flooded and totally impossible.

Only alternative route was via Finke, and if possible to cross, the river, up the old Ghan track to Maryvale and Alice.

Mud and floods all way to Finke but no real problems.

Finke River 200 metres wide and deep (in excess of 3 metres) and flowing fast, running a banker.

No alternative than to divert via Kulgera and the Stuart Hwy into Alice.

Dinner in Alice had been planned well before the trip details were finalised.

It is always very special as a guest of our good friend and mine host, Wayne (Krafty) Kraft at his World Famous, Overlanders Steakhouse, accompanied and entertained by the Territory's other Very Special Person, the unique and irrepressible, Ted Egan.

Day 9 (17th): Alice Springs

We were all very fortunate to be invited as guests to spend a very special day at Ted Egan's home property "Sinka Tinny Downs".

The homestead was built by Ted himself.

It's full of character with thick mud walls, timbers from the local area and sleepers from the old Ghan railway.

We spent the day relaxing, watching the footy, served by Ted with home made pies and rolls, with a few beers and a sampling of our hosts' fine wine cellar.



Day 8
Leaving Mt Dare

BINNS TRACK

ALICE SPRINGS 100
FINKE 104





A great start 200 metres from Mt Dare







Finke village main street



Finke River Crossing to Alice







Retreat from the Finke River



Just arrived in Alice





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Alice Springs - The Overlanders Steakhouse



Sinka Tinny Downs



Our Host Ted Egan

SINKA TINY DOWNS



The wine cellar bar















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