



Wyperfeld/Murray Sunset NP

2nd – 6th November 2002

Saturday

Meeting at Tylors Lakes we headed for Lake Albacutya. Stopping at Rainbow for fuel, and found that no fuel outlets were open because Saturday afternoon is “Sports Day”. We decided to return in the morning for fuel.

Camping at Lake Albacutya’s West Beach camp area, the temperature was in the low to mid 30’s, and very windy. A dark haze was moving in from the northwest, as Daryl spoke to one of the locals who looks after the park. He said the darkness was a large dust storm and that we should “batten down”. The wind increased with dust filling everything, and the strong smell of smoke in the air made for an eerie evening.



Lake Albacutya camp - Approx 1600hrs



Lake Albacutya camp - Approx 1700hrs

Sunday

With temperatures in the low 20’s. We traversed along Chinaman Well Track to Murrayville-Nhill tk and then east along a couple of minor tracks taking in the view from a Trig Point. Some patches of soft sand made for a couple of challenges.



Trig Point – Murrayville-Nhill Rd



Monday

Stopped at Murrayville for fuel, then onto the MurraySunset NP. Lunch was along the track near Sunset Tank. We then headed west along Pheenys track. Michalea punctured a tyre, with a stick ripping a 30mm hole in the side wall.

Camp for the night was at a camp site along Pheenys Track where fire wood and a bush toilet were provided.

Tuesday

Departing camp a little after 9am, we headed for the SA Border. Temperature was in the high 20's by 11am with no clouds and very light winds. We then turned down the boarder track (well, what we thought was the boarder track). A couple of sand dunes in we found one with a cross angle and very soft sand. Getting almost to the top Daryl slid sideways whilst reversing.

The recovery was a slow process, as Daryl could not reverse without the risk of hitting a tree. Our first attempt at pulling out backwards failed, then we had to dig and move some dead timber and bushes to get Trevor's Prado out.

Reducing the tyre pressures, having a couple of attempts, then driving it like a 'company car' Trevor was able to get in front. We were then able to join three statch straps together. Then pulling up and removing each strap on at a time as we got closer we completed the recovery in a little under two hours.

Michaela then had a couple of attempts in the Feroza and was snatched the last ten metres.



Michalea's second recovery was easy, with Daryl, Trevor and John pushing it a couple of metres up the dune.

When the track came to an end in some dense bush, we realized we may not have been on the right track. We negotiated our way about 100m through the bush to a well made 'boarder track'. We stopped for lunch at the site of the "Berrock School" (1929-1935).

Michaela and John left us at the Mallee Hwy to return home.

We continued along the edge of the Wyperfeld NP and onto the Milfed Rock Tk. This is a very well used track with many corrugated sections. Arrived at Chinamans Grave camp site at about 6:20pm. It was disappointing to find that someone had not extinguished the fire, but had filled the fire place full of sand, and it contained a number of metal cans.

Wednesday

Very mild overnight temperature, and a warm day in the park.

Heading home we took a short detour to a lookout and trig point, however we could not get to the top as the track has very soft sand and deep ruts. The view was great from as far as we could go. Throughout the track out we saw about ten stumpy tail lizards, four of them at an information shelter.



Report by Daryl Owen