



THE DATES HAVE COME AND GONE

THE BEDS WERE GREAT

THE MEETING TIME IS DONE

NOW IT'S TIME TO REPORT OUR STAY

WE CAME TO BOURKE TO SEE THIS GREAT OUTBACK TOWN

AND REMEMBER –

“You don't know Australia until you know Bourke” - Henry Lawson.

FRIDAY MARCH 22 FLY IN TO BOURKE AIRPORT – after much skirting of thunderstorms, most participants arrived safely on Friday, even our intrepid Deputy Tribe Chief, who fortunately “escaped” from the frontal system threatening Tassie before it might trap him for the duration! Not so lucky were our newest participants from Brisbane, where the weather provided a rapidly changing system, effectively blocking their exit until Saturday. Another late booking and arrival on Saturday, from northern climes as well, took our final numbers to 35. The provided light refreshments were well received after planes were fuelled and parked for the weekend, and our local driver and those members who drove to the event helped get everyone settled into their accommodations.

After a round or two of libations at the Bridge Inn, courtesy of Possum and Glen, is was off to Kidman's Camp for the evening meal, having welcomed our overseas visitor “JVB”, on one of his “down-unders”.

Approx1900: GATHER AT KIDMANS CAMP FOR “POETRY ON A PLATE” WITH ANDREW HULL. By now the weather was definitely threatening to rend the sky with much thunder and lightning, so after an attempt to stay in the well-prepared open seating, a hurried move to an undercover area nearby allowed the evening to proceed with Andrew's assistance, and his charming bush stories and poems, many being his original works. His catering crew delighted us with their welcome supplies, surprising us later on the evening with lovely desserts, tea and coffee

SATURDAY MARCH 23 **0730-0830** BREAKFAST AT BRIDGE INN. Glenn and Possum worked their magic with a great fresh-cooked breakfast to start our day well. The weather had settled to a mild sunny disposition, so our latecomers flew in without incident.

0830-1230: TOUR OF DISTRICT WITH LOCAL GUIDE **STUART JOHNSON**. There was great interest in the tour, which, being fully subscribed, was ably assisted with extra seats in some of our members' vehicles and use of the local mud-maps while the cars followed the full bus around the sites and points of interest. After lunch, purchased at the end of the tour, most participants took the opportunity to visit the BACK'O'BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE, taking particular notice of the many interesting presentations on local history, culture and regional progress.

1630-1730: High water on the river blocked our plans to CRUISE ON THE PADDLESTEAMER JANDRA ON THE DARLING RIVER (not due to flow, but to overhanging power lines!) but Phil Johnston from the local Council worked his magic, mooring the steamer on the river despite the full flow of water so we could still enjoy our drinks and nibbles on this wonderfully re-created paddle-steamer. The first cruise of the season was to be even further delayed by the waters coming downstream after heavy rains further north, so we counted ourselves lucky to having been able to board this lovely vessel.

Approx. 1800: Then it was back onto our local buses and on to EVENING DINNER AT **DIGGERS ON THE DARLING** WITH PHIL AND ANNE-MARREE PARNABY AS HOSTS. This was the dining room at the local RSL, where the standout dish of the evening was definitely the Barramundi!

SUNDAY MARCH 24 BREAKFAST was once again superbly done at the Bourke Bridge Inn by Possum and Glen, followed by the GENERAL MEETING (SEE SEPARATE REPORT).

Stuart Johnson again provided transfers between venues and the airport, and, as organisers of this Fly-In, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those in Bourke who gave of their advice and assistance so freely to make this event such a success. Many participants had only landed at the airport in the past, if they had been in the area at all, and were generally pleasantly surprised at what they found in this old outback river town.

Apologies were received from:

Duff, Jim & Annie	Lenne, Roger & Linda
Wettenhall, Nigel & Marg	Bunn, Graeme & Glenda
MacDowall, Wal	Darwell, Reg & Pat
Modra, Geoff	Paratz, Laurence & Kerry and family
Ward, John	Rankmore, Kevin
Barry, Jim & Kerry	

while those attending were:

Mills, George & Maree	EDM	Moore, John	EDS	Alcock, Gary & Frances	PPW	Munn, Ken & Gayl	
Tym, Gordon & Shirley	BEJ	Read, Tony & Angela	MEG	Smith, Bill & Larkman, Mike	MAC	Bell, Jeff	JDB
Skinner, Fred & Val	Driving	Reiss, Phillip	HPR	Thomson, Ian & Lawson, Irene	JGW	Peters, Jim	ESL
Melloh, Manfred & Allison, Sarah and Amy	Driving	van Bladeren, John	N/W TRIBE, USA. TSJ	Michell, John, and Forester, Bill	Flew in Sat am, late reg.		
Wittig, Jethro & Knutson, Deanna	JGW	Nixon, Trevor & Lynette	UAW	Macknight, John & Jan	24-7469	van der Spek, Tony & Jan	TSJ

From Jan & Tony van der Spek