

One Member's trip report.

Scout National Gathering in the Flinders Ranges report - Apr 2013

14 people in 8 vehicles [4 Scouts] met at Brim near Warracknabeal (Vic) and headed off in convoy to the Biennial International Scout State Clubs get together - Touring through Murrayville, Cadell, Mount Mary , Burra Gorge and Laura at a leisurely pace with plenty of time to do the tourist thing.

We arrived at Melrose caravan park on April Fool's day for the start of the official tour and re-acquainted ourselves with some of the members from the other states. Some of whom we had met before but there were some new faces. After 3 days there touring the Southern Flinders areas we moved to Merna Mora. This was a



working station with camping and from there we toured the middle section of Flinders [pictured]. One stormy night we had a meal at the Prairie Hotel at Parachilna which was a pleasant experience although it was a long trip in the bus dodging Roos coming back.

The meeting, held as part of the get together, voted on where 2015 should be and it was decided the 4 presidents should organise it, with it being QLD's turn and that Qld was the preferred location. Later discussion showed a preference for North Qld. One comment was that Vics would go anywhere the beer is cold. While I like cold beer, it is not the reason we attend these functions. In fact given our history of organising and attending, if Victoria did not go I doubt if they would survive because, as in previous years, Victoria had by far the most members with 14 present. We have over the years supplied many of the members who attend these functions, sometimes with up to more than 50% of those attending the full programme.

While I appreciate that the makeup of a large part of our membership is of an age group that we can spend the time travelling, it also means that we are not so disposed to bouncing over rough tracks. Many of us have limited funds to keep our old vehicles going and it was disappointing that some people seemed offended by our reluctance to bash along tracks. It is a case of "been there , done that" I personally [with my wife] did a trip to Alice Springs in 1970 when there was basically no sealed roads north of Port August in a 1960 2WD Falcon Station wagon with another couple in a 1956 Vangaurd Station wagon. I consider that was tougher than a few farm tracks in a purpose built 4WD.



After Merna Mora we moved to Beltana Station which was a friendly, helpful, well run station and a recommended place to base yourself to tour the Flinders Ranges . Station hosts, Graham and Laura, could not do enough to make us feel welcome and

appreciated. We toured some parts of the Nth Flinders from Beltana including Lake Torrens [pictured] and used it as a base to go to Arkaroola. After Arkaroola we all headed off on our individual ways.

I look forward to seeing where we end up in 2015. These are my personal comments, not the views of ISOC Vic. Fred.