

My Trip Through South Australia

CJ Dennis, Howard Florey, Peter Dawson, Douglas Mawson, Tom Kruse and Mo Rene are all South Australians.'

I recently spent some time in Adelaide before joining a trip with 'Outback Spirit' to Lake Eyre, something I've always wanted to see, in a remote part of South Australia.

We passed through Snotown on the way to Port Augusta and the ANZ Bank building is still there. From PA to Marree we saw numerous derelict farm buildings which some have been used in films sets. Marree was once an important railhead and this is where the Birdsville Track and Oodnadatta Tracks commence. In the afternoon we ventured by vehicle into a part of Lake Eyre South National Park and saw water in the distance I guess one or two kms away, an unbelievable sight. We were unable to get to close due to recent rain.

The next day I enjoyed two 75min scenic flights over Lake Eyre North N.P. and this was FANTASTIC, water water everywhere, almost like an inland sea, hard to imagine. We landed at Kalamurina Wildlife Sanctuary close to the banks of Warburton Creek and were very lucky to see a huge wedge tail eagle feeding her young, plus numerous other water birds including a new one for me in the Black Tailed Bush Hen. This airstrip is being made all weather so the Flying Doctor can land when necessary.

After leaving Kalamurina we followed the Birdsville Track which was closed being 4 km wide, the punt was in use. \$10 a trip and one vehicle at a time.

At times the Birdsville Track can be 47km wide and I flew about 750km over Lake Eyre. On to Wilpena Pound next passing through Brachina and Bunyerroo Gorges, where I enjoyed a very small plane ride over this natural beauty. The only problem were the kangaroos on the runway while we were descending, thank goodness they could hear us.

On our return we saw numerous wind farms, around Hallet which is where another famous 'croweater' in George Hubert Wilkins was born.

I am a fan of Hans Heysen and his paintings certainly do the Flinders Ranges justice.

I had a pleasant phone call with Wendy Morony in Adelaide. Did you know Adelaide is the only capital named after a female? Queen Adelaide was the wife of William 1V. Of course I bought my family home some delicious Haigh's Chocolates.

Sandra Harbottle