

**Participants:** Stephen & Linda Hollier, George & Sally Ling, Lola Walker and Bob ?

**3 July.** Arrived Curtin Springs, Sally and Lola from a family function in Alice Springs. Linda & Stephen from Alice Springs after their trip via Adelaide and a flight over Lake Eyre then 2 weeks around Alice Springs & George and Lola's driver Bob direct from home. Away at 9.30 on the **4<sup>th</sup> July** we took a few pictures of Ayres Rock and the Olga's as we past through Uluru National Park. We stopped at Lasseter's Cave at a rest area for a quick cuppa. We went on to camp at Warrakurna roadhouse. **5<sup>th</sup> July** away at 9.40am Central time (no diesel). About 50 Ks down the road we spotted a couple of dingoes chasing something in the spinifex then about a further 60 Ks on we spotted our 1<sup>st</sup> Camels - 9 in all, a couple very close to the road. The road so far has been pretty good a few corrugations and a little bit rocky. Morning tea stop 130 Ks from Giles. It was a very interesting rest area, would make a great place for a camp and plenty of little caves around to explore. Lings picked up some fuel at Warburton \$2.05 p/Lt. We stopped for lunch when we thought it was about midday. We camped at Tjukayirla roadhouse. It got very cold so we all turned in early. **6<sup>th</sup> July** on the road at 9am. More camels. The wildflowers are starting to appear, especially the beautiful desert peas. At Laverton we went to the Explorers Hall of Fame. It was well worth the visit. We camped at Malcolm Dam 10ks east of Leonora. As we set up camp it started to rain and the wind came up. **7<sup>th</sup> July** away by 9am. Stopped off at Leonora for fuel and supplies and away soon after 10am We arrived in Wiluna at 3pm took care last minute details and left Wiluna at 4pm headed out to 'CSR Well 1' took photos then off to 'North Pool' camping around 5pm - light rain on and off. A 1st class camp site by a billabong with rocky escarpment, bush land, wild life and to top it off a full moon, making it a great place for bush walks and photographs. **8<sup>th</sup> July** 9am getaway. It is overcast and clearing as we go north. After Well 2, saw 3 trail bikes and support vehicle. Track gets very corrugated about 10 Ks from Well 2, then at 16 Ks track turns rocky. At **Well 2A** 'The Granites' we discovered that one of Lings fuel cans was leaking so we had to squeeze it into the car tank, we had lunch and set off again. The track so far has been 20/25 Ks/h. Camped at **Well 3** at 3pm. Air temperature got up to 25°. **9 July** 6 am - 16° - away 8.45 am We spent quite a bit of time getting photos of buzzards building a nest. We turned off the bypass to go out to **Well 3A**. We stopped for lunch on the approach of 'Snells Gap'. A good pool of water in 'Kennedy Creek'. A few real steep creek crossings around 4Ks north of **Well 4A**. We arrived at Windich Springs at 2.45 pm - talked briefly to southbound travelers and we set up camp by the billabong. The wind was blowing strong enough to dry our washing before dark. A night for relaxing by the campfire we heard a donkey. Then went spotlighting turtles about as big as a saucer. **10 July** It is 17° and a bit overcast. A short way up the track we come to 'The mulga track from hell' morning tea at **Well 5** and then onto **Well 6** a much better stretch of road and picturesque flora along the way arriving at **Well 6 (Pierre Spring)** at 12.30pm. A quick dash to erect a rain shelter then we kicked back for lunch. We took our time to set up camp, light a fire, prepare our dinner and cook a damper. The water from this well is nice tasting and very soft. **11<sup>th</sup> July** 6.30am 17°. Lots of packing up this morning but managed to get done by 9am About 5 Ks up the track Steve, Linda, Bob and Sally went for a little adventure up Ingabong Hill. It was a magnificent climb. Then a quick cuppa and back on the track. Arrived **Well 7** at 11.50am. Continuing through the thicket - we came across two idiots heading south with no flags or radios. At least they pulled over for us but not all to far, as George passed the first car he scrapped the side of his car. We stopped at **Well 8** for lunch, the weather is overcast but dry 21°. 2 vehicles we met at Well 5 yesterday came flying into view without warning, I don't believe they had a radio. If they did they weren't communicating with others. A quick photo stop at **Well 9**. We pushed on to **well 10** where we camped. **12 July** away at 8. The corrugation are so bad that a third track was formed. MT at **Well 11** and lunch at **Well 12** At 4 Ks south of **Well 13**, we stopped for photos of burnt out car, then on to **Well 13 and 14** with lots of bad corrugation and rocky outcrops and a few camels. We drove up a lookout for a quick look at lots more of nothing and then onto **Well 15** where we camped. **13<sup>th</sup> July**. Left camp at 8.45am We stopped for a look at the remains of Rankin's trolley then onto **Well 16** for MT. A few Ks up the road we turned right to the Calvet Ranges, past Sunday well we picked a lunch spot at the base of a sand hill which proved to be easy enough but we came apart on the next one. We missed the run up and selected the wrong gear, Low/low so we gave High/low a go and went over well. It took Bob 3 goes and Holliers 2. At the **Calvet Ranges** we turned left on the circuit drive, about 16 Ks and camped just short of the road out at 4pm. No fire tonight as they are not permitted. **14<sup>th</sup> July**. George and Bob went off with Linda and Stephen in search of some graffiti (rock art) Sally and Lola stayed behind to sort out their pantry and do a bit of washing before heading off. We all met back at the main camp ground for early lunch. We left Calvet rangers at 12.15pm. Stopped off at **Sunday Well** and back on the CSR at 2.15pm soon to strike a very nasty outcrop of rocks on the road. We arrived at **Canning's Cain** at 2.50pm. Steve, Linda and Bob climbed up to the carne then we went for a walk down the creek bed to find the spotty rocks. We arrived at **Durba Springs** at 5pm. **15<sup>th</sup> July** Rest day for some, or was it? How nice to wake to the sound of birds chirping and just lay there and listen to them.. Air temp 7° and windy. We caught up on our washing. Linda, Stephen and Bob went for a walk around the magnificent gorge. A nice camp fire and off to bed at 9pm. **16<sup>th</sup> July**. 7° - no wind, on our way at 8.30am. We get back into sand dune country Holliers found one that needed a second go, so we all dropped our tyre pressure. Then Bob found one that needed a second go. To Deible Springs It was 18Ks of mostly sandy track and rough creek crossings then a bit of rock hopping at the end. At the car park we had a 500m walk down a creek bed then a big climb up the rock face. Steve was first to find the spring and it was well worth the big effort. Halfway back to the CSR Bob missed a sand dune so we let our tyres down more then we missed the same one, wrong gear second attempt OK. Back on the CSR at 3pm. Around 5Ks south of **Well 18** the rocks are very nasty up to the turn off. It was after 4pm so we set up camp at **Well 18**. **17<sup>th</sup> July**. Wow it's a bit chilly this morning 3°. Holliers were ready long before the Newcastle slow pokes so we sent them on to Onegunya rockhole. We were away at 9am and met Holliers at the rock hole, a 5 Ks drive off the CSR and a 90m walk from the car park. It was dry, with lots of camel dung in it. This is an aboriginal sacred site, forbidden area to men beyond the waterhole. We crossed over the Tropic of Capricorn at noon and shortly after, arrived at **Well 19**. Lunch under a stand of Desert Oaks 10 Ks further north. Savory Creek crossing was high and dry. It was decided we will all go on to camp at Lake Disappointment and come back to **Well 20** in the morning. What an excellent camp spot on a high spot under the desert oaks with a lake view frontage. Stephen, Linda and Bob went for a big walk over the lake looking for salt incusted critters. **18<sup>th</sup> July**. 8°. The Holliers were off to well 20 at 6.45am, the rest of us enjoyed a little sleep in. George had to get his drill out to do a few running repairs then he restacked our car. When Holliers returned from a very pleasant trip to **Well 20**, we left camp at 9am. At about 8Ks up the track we came to the remains of an old camper van. Holliers got stuck on the crest of a sand hill and George was happy that finally he got to use his Max Trax they worked a treat so we left them in place for Bob, who made it with no worries but the Hilux didn't make it to the Max Trax and eventually we had to get the snatch strap out. Lunch at **Well 22** at 1pm. A short way up the track we come across another burnt out vehicle. At **Georgia Bore** we filled up with good clean water and headed west on the **Talawana Track**. At 4.15pm and 43ks from the bore, we pull up to camp on a rocky spot near a dry creek crossing. **19<sup>th</sup> July**. on the way at 8.05am We called in to

have a look at McKay Bore 17 Ks from our campsite. There was a great big glass heap by a windmill that didn't work, a hand pump and a whole lot of rubbish. However the road was graded wide enough for a 4 lane freeway but after tuning into Rudall River NP the track got rough again. At **White Gum Bore** we stop for morning tea, the area had been recently burnt off. We went for a drive out to **Watrara Pool** which was dry, had lunch and a look around then back to the main track in the Park and up to **Desert Queen Pools**. There were 6 vehicles already camped there. **20<sup>th</sup> July**. 17°. Packed up and went for a 2 hour walk up the gorge at 8.30am. It was a glorious walk with lots of pools large and small, caves and lots and lots of rocks to climb over. We had a quick morning tea and left by 11am. We drove back out the same rough road we came in on back down to the air strip and turned left to **Kalkan**

**Kalkan Soak** for lunch, then off towards **Cotton Creek**. At 1.30pm it is 29° We drive on through a very rough track, start looking for a camp site around 3pm - too many rocks - too much wind. After driving down a creek bed and getting stopped by a falling tree and retracing our tracks out of the creek. We eventually found the right road and a camp spot. **21<sup>st</sup> July**. 4°, pack and away by 8am, we missed one turn off to Camel Rock. When we got to the main track we decided that due to Ling's lack of fuel we decided not go to Camel rock. Ling's picked up a little bit of fuel at **Cotton Creek** and dropped off some rubbish and off we went on the **Talawarna track**. About 5Ks short of Georgia Bore we came across the fuel truck from Newman with a flat tyre, he was dragging 4 big truck tyres to flatten out the corrugations on the road. We noticed that it worked real well at slow speed but little effect when he sped up. We arrived at **Georgia Bore** at 3.15pm. It was great to have a nice shower from the bore - the temperature of the water was just right. **22<sup>nd</sup> July** 15° but what a windy night and morning. 8am the Holliers headed out to find the fuel at the fuel dump, the rest of us got away at 8.30. We took some photos of the badly corrugated track with George standing on the top of two corrugations to show how big they are. Holliers were almost fuelled up when we got there. (200litre drum \$500) we went back to **Well 23** for morning tea then back on the track. At well 24. George spotted a dingo lying in among the trees watching us. Lunch at well 25. It feels very hot with the sun beaming in on us but it is actually quite pleasant 25°. Soon after lunch we crossed over a sand dune that is known as 'The Whopper'. Stopped off at **Well 26** for photos and camped at well 27. **23<sup>rd</sup> July**. Packed up quickly this morning ready by 7.40am. We drove up to the native soak. We also tried to find the blood wood tree that has a memorial of a Japanese bikey, no luck but we did find an aboriginal work shop. We turned off to Separation Well, a good track if you have plenty of clearance but the Hilux and the Prado had difficulty with the termite mounds in the middle of the road. We arrived at Separation Well soon after 11am, the boys dug out about 60cm and struck water. Sally collected a specimen to take home to her "Museum" We had a lunch break at the corner of the main track. Lings got stuck on hill 27 had a 2nd go, Holliers also got stuck, Bob tried to snatch them out and he got bogged so the Hilux hooked up and pulled them both over. (*there is some advantages in writing up the report, you get to tell the story your way*) We camped about 20Ks north of **Well 28** between 2 close dunes. It was a *real* desert camp. There was an old hollow stump left behind by the last campers, it made a magnificent pot belly campfire and staged excellent photographs everyone was in bed by 8.30pm **24<sup>th</sup> July**. packed ready by 7.30am, it's fairly overcast this morning but not cold 17°. We seem to be getting packed up with much more ease now and not holding the Holliers up so long. Well 29 and onto Thring Rock we all went for a climb to explore the rock. Sally picked up a small specimen of special bubble rock for her "Museum" About 7Ks south of well 30 we came to a real lush valley of many varieties of shrubs and plants - Holley Gravillia, Wattles, Acacia, Eucalypts, Spinifex and many others. Arrived at **Well 30** to be greeted by a dingo pup. The boys and Linda went out to the caves and Lola and Sally stayed at the well to play with the puppy, gave her a drink of water in their dish and after she had a drink she tried to take the dish away we have tooth marks to prove it. The temperature got up to 37°. Stephen and Linda went on ahead to catch the shop at the community before it closed for the week end. Lings camped At 4.30pm at a little clear spot amongst the spinifex, no camp fire tonight, too risky. Just as we finish dinner a gale blew up and set us all into a frenzy pegging down tents and putting on guy ropes. **25<sup>th</sup> July**. Up and away at 7.40am - Temperature 18°. Photos at **Well 32** not very much left of this well. About 3 Ks from the turn off to the community we got a radio call from Stephen, they camped at well 33 last night. We met Holliers at the community and Stephen downloaded our photos to a USB stick before scooting off. After doing a load of washing in a washing machine, making a few phone calls and picking up some fuel we headed out to **Well 33**. Holliers had already decided to head north leaving the Lings to follow the following day. George spent the afternoon inspecting the damages under our cars. The news was not good, the Prado has some fairly serious damage to the chassis We decided that it would be a big risk to take it back onto the remote CSR so we opted to head east tomorrow. Via the Jenkin Track to Gary Junction 2pm we arrived at Jupiter Well 7.27am. We stopped at Kiwirrkurra to take photos of one of Len Beadells Trucks. . Lunch at Sandy Blight Junction -A short stop at Len Beadells next marker. We camped at a road works site about 20 Ks west of Papunya Community. **28<sup>th</sup> July**. 8°. . As we drive through Papunya we notice many vacant cottages made of blocks but lots of gunyas made of bits and pieces of scrap tin, clothes, trees etc which all appeared to be occupied. As we drive on out of town on our right we have the most magnificent rocky mountain range you could imagine, the sun shone on it to enhance the purple shades. It was a very pleasant drive down through Haasts Bluff. We stopped for Munch (*early lunch*) at a lookout overlooking the west McDonald ranges. This area is so spectacular that you need to spend a good month here exploring. We arrived at Alice Springs at 1.30pm, fuelled up, picked up Lola's van and left Alice at 4pm. The trip from there was a fast dash home.

**25<sup>th</sup> July** Back to the Holliers heading north from Well 33 expecting the Lings to be a day or so behind in case of trouble. **Well 34** 11.36am **Well 35** Lunch we retrieved a small amount of water from bore casing installed in well we visited a native well "Bungabinni" then on to **Well 36** and camped at 4.42 and discovered later the area was a Wolf spider colony. **26<sup>th</sup> July** away again 7.10am **Well 37** at 7.20 walked to graves of Thompson, Shoemith, Chinaman and McLernon. Checked out Cave and rock art next at 8.53 on to Well 38 at 8.53 Reverse gear not working and fridge also missed a beat, Well 39 for Lunch at 11.30 then 1pm **Well 40** and Tobins grave. Well 41 2.25pm camped 5.09pm **27<sup>th</sup> July** away at 6.15am will be good to get back to the van Well 42 at 7.03am Well 43, 8.06 **Well 44** 9.25 Well 45 11.30am reverse gear appears to be working again but we will not depend on it **Well 46** for lunch and refill our water left Met a group from Tamworth 1.27 on too **Well 47** then on to Mt Romilly Looking for Plaque that we didn't find camped 4.10 Heard on VKS that the Lings were heading for the Alice. **28<sup>th</sup> July** 11.2deg at 6am underway 7.10am very windy tent folded up itself in the wind Breden valley at 8.20 and walked to Breden pool and Geoffrey's tank off at 9.14 to **Well 48** left 9.53 **Well 49** 10.43 **Well 50** 11.15am Walked up creek at Culvida Soak fascinating slate type rocks. Left at 1.14 **Well 51** Last well 2.06 (We had visited All 51 wells) and on past dry lake Gregory saw wild horses and arrived at Bloodwood well at 3.27 and camped. As community shop at Billiluna closes early. **29<sup>th</sup> July** Off at 7.40am fuelled up at Billiluna and headed down the Tanami towards Alice, Crossed NT/WA Border at 10.30 and a noon lunch at Rabbit Flat (microwave pie and coke) where we had our only flat tyre (temp plug held OK) away again we had some unexpected phone signal and camped at Flood Out Creek at 4.52pm. **30<sup>th</sup> July** away 7.07 am after booking in to van park in Alice went out to

Stuarts Well to pick up van and on the trip back in a traveler in a Britz camper lofted an egg at us splatting on the windscreen after taking paint off bonnet and cracking windscreen. We then meandered home through Queensland.