



Googs Track

Report by Les & Eileen Butler

Trip participants-Les & Eileen and also Neal, Bev and Jessica

We were all packed up and after buying last minute supplies-bread etc, by 9.am we were off. Travelling north from Ceduna for 30 kms on good gravel roads we came to the dog fence and the start of Goog's track, where we saw our first goanna. Letting the tyres down we were then set for some good sand tracks. It was fairly easy going all the way to the memorials of Goog and his son dinger. The family had erected the markers at the site of the original hut. We found the original money tree, as previous travellers had hammered coins of all kinds into the bark, as well as left many beer bottles at the back of the memorials. We travelled on a short distance to Goog Lake and the viewing point for a lunch stop. After lunch we went back to the start of the lakes to find a sheltered spot for camp for the night. On the lake were some unusual stones that made for some fun by Jessica writing her name on the lakebed as others had done. Camp was set up and a campfire was enjoyed, an early night for all.

Day two- took a little time to find the right track out and we were on our way to Mt. Finke. and more sand hills, rough on the incline due to some camper trailers that had traversed the track some days before us and the crests were like talc with steep descents. We saw many more lizards. Arrived at Mt. Finke mid-afternoon, Les, Neal and Jessica climbed to the top, Eileen stopped halfway up and Bev decided to have some quiet time. After leaving there with Neal leading he stopped quickly as he had a thorny devil on the track. After taking many photos' it was moved off the track and we were on our way again to his salt lake where we camped for the night.

Day three-once again more sand hills but not as challenging as those we had already passed. We were nearly out when we met five vehicles with three trailers heading north south. They had been advised not to travel in that direction. We got off the track to watch them go over their first sand hill. The trailers were thrown around quite a lot but the third one, a two-ton King Camper didn't make it. We left them to decide what to do.

The track from then on was quite easy as it had been cleared and graded. Stopping for morning tea and pumping up the tyres we were on our way to the ghost town of Tarcoola where we saw a goods train from the west go through. At Kingoonya we said farewell to Neal, Bev and Jessica as they went onto Glendambo and home. It was sad to see them go as we had had a most enjoyable trip, seeing lots of wildlife lizards, goanna's and emus with chicks. We didn't need fuel so we went on to Mt. June station and then on to the Gawler ranges.