



SUNDAY DRIVE 6th JULY 2008

A decidedly cool and blustery morning saw seven vehicles arrive at the starting point for this Sunday drive to be led by Gordon and Ida Atherton.

In addition to Gordon & Ida, the participants were Barrie & Bev Marsland, Richard & Annette Tyrcha, Tony & Helen Burwood, Martin Galbreath and two visiting couples, Alan & Sue Leaver and Trevor & Shauna Lee.

At the pre-departure briefing, Gordon informed us that he and Ida had compiled a 'trip questionnaire' to complete along the way, and he had decided that it wouldn't be the last person to arrive at the start point who would do the trip report, but the lowest score on the questionnaire would have the privilege. I won on both counts.

So, after the issue of frequency of 'comfort stops' was decided, and the dreaded trip questionnaire was distributed, the convoy headed off with the first comfort stop being approximately 1km down the road. Very efficient are Gordon & Ida.

Then, out through the back blocks of Edinburgh, Penfield and Angle Vale and on to Hamley Bridge for morning tea and a chat. Off we went again with very picturesque rolling country on both sides of the roads in the direction of Owen, Alma and Tarlee and it looked at one stage that we may run into some wet weather to make the dirt roads more interesting. Not to be, I think I counted about ten drops on the windscreen. Only one decent sized puddle sighted but no-one showed much interest in it.....except Trevor – he just had to give his vehicle a bath.

Shortly before Tarlee our tail-end-charlie, Richard, became rather ill and had to retire from the trip. Trevor elected to take on this duty and did a great job.

We carried on to Nuriootpa to have a late(ish) lunch on the reserve next to the old steam locomotive where we just about had to peg ourselves down due to the strong wind. Cold too.

For the whole trip, from when we left Elizabeth to when we finished at Nuriootpa, Ida provided a wealth of information over the radio on all sorts of historical facts about the area, such as the dates townships were established, who owned the land, historical structures, mining activity and loads of other interesting early Barossa history. That's why I got such a low score on my questionnaire, I was too interested in Ida's commentary, – well that's my excuse. Where did you get all that interesting stuff Ida?

The drive officially finished after lunch and after Ida marked the questionnaires. I am not sure who won, but I know who got the wooden spoon.

The trip was a nice easy and relaxing journey through the western and middle Barossa that was well planned and executed by Gordon and enjoyed by all.

Barrie Marsland