

Goodbye to Victoria



Heading westward...

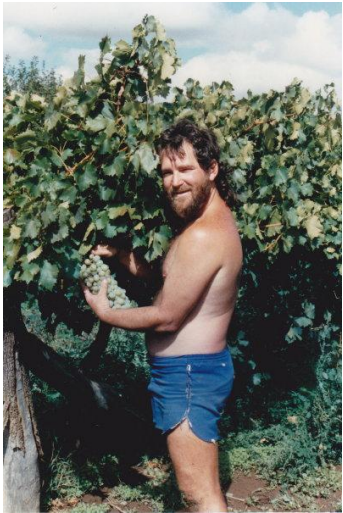


Gday...

Gee, hasn't time flown ... The year is simply rushing by. It seems like only yesterday I last compiled my usual collection of words and photos of my wandering journey.

I have now finished working at the Vineyard at Nyah near Swan Hill in Victoria and have begun to head westward – heading ultimately to Western Australia. More than 20 years have passed since I last worked at the Vineyard and the peaceful and welcoming feeling of this family vineyard is still as strong as it was then. The first time we worked here was to pick grapes, but when I returned on other occasions I picked grapes as well as some tractor work (picking up buckets of fruit) and working in the factory – crushing grapes and putting the crushed grapes through the presses.

This time I worked predominantly on the tractor – putting out empty buckets for the pickers and then picking up the full buckets and taking them to the factory. The work was fairly physical but I thoroughly enjoyed myself, especially with almost perfect weather each day.



Guess who ... 1989



Ken (on tractor) and me – now



Older, fatter, greyer, wiser?? ... now

I had last visited the Flinders Ranges in 1983 and just could not head westward without wandering a little northward to soak up those Ranges all over again.

On the way, I stopped at a little town called Cadell on the Murray and camped in their showgrounds. It just happened to be their Great Pumpkin Festival the weekend I was there so I stayed an extra couple of nights.

I was very glad I did as the Festival was very interesting.



A tiny "baby" pumpkin



The winning pumpkin at 162kg



Notice to Dogs in the Showgrounds.



Stopped for a couple of days at the historic heritage town of Burra which was one of the first, and largest, copper mining towns in Australia. Many of the buildings have been restored to their former glory and it was quite enjoyable strolling around the town and soaking up the late 1800s and early 1900s atmosphere.

Above is Redruth Gaol which was built in 1856 when Burra was the largest town outside Adelaide. The gaol closed in 1894 and the building became a family residence until 1897 when it became the Redruth Girl's Reformatory until 1922. The gaol was used in the filming of *Breaker Morant*.

On the right are the Tiver's Row cottages – which were the homes of miners in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



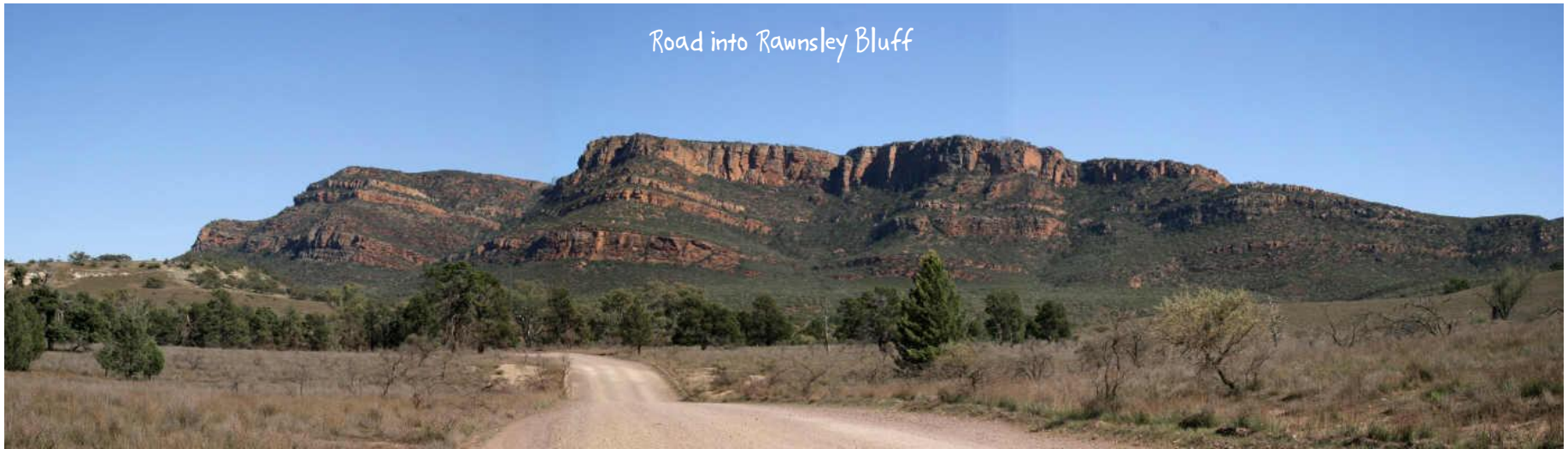
Approaching the Flinders Ranges from the south.



The weather was magnificent on the drive into the Flinders Ranges and thankfully it continued for my weeklong stay. I had booked in to the Rawnsley Park Station campground, about 20km south of Wilpena Pound. This is a working sheep station providing camping within the station. The 'stylised' Eagle on their entrance sign is well done. The Flinders Ranges is still a photography dream. I tried to capture the variety of the scenery but with limited success. However, I will share a couple of what I think are the better shots on the following pages.

Rawnsley Park Station campground.





Road into Rawnsley Bluff

The Landy was driven on every dirt road within the Flinders Ranges National Park and it is so difficult to select just a few photos that show how varying the scenery is. The road into Rawnsley bluff took me to a walk to view Aboriginal paintings and engravings. Sacred Canyon contained another walk to Aboriginal engravings. Almost every turn of the road or crest of a hill provided more opportunities to stop the Landy and take ANOTHER photo !



Sacred Canyon



Northern Range of Wilpena Pound



Road through Bunyeroo Valley



Rawnsley Bluff – viewed from near my camp

Chace Range – showing the road into Rawnsley Park Station campground



And it would not be fitting to leave the Flinders Ranges without sharing a couple of photos of favourite critters. 😊

These cute little rascals were encountered on a number of walks.



I left the Flinders Ranges and headed to Port Augusta to re-stock the pantry and begin the journey further westward.

Until next time, I hope you stay well.



The Brachina Gorge car wash



I don't know where I'm going....
But I know where I've been !