

## 11 Day 'Escape to the Country' of Western NSW

Tony Andrew gave a brief presentation describing his recent tour of Western NSW

### Route outline



We commenced our tour in the Bylong Valley to check out Eddie Obeid's purchase, Cherrydale Park, a delightful rural property that will make a great coal mine! Then on to gold town Hill End, a captivating window into history with authentic buildings from 150 years ago. We will be back for a proper explore. Then to Coonabarabran and the Warrumbungles. Check to ensure the Siding Springs telescope is open the day you go!

To Cobar and on to Trilby Station on the Darling River near Louth. A fascinating property of 320,000 acres catering for guests at all levels. We enjoyed a fully equipped unit that even had air-conditioned and a washing machine! This was our third attempt having previously been stopped by rain (as little as 10 points will do it!). Little water in the Darling, but a life saver to the area. We also visited a relative at Janina Station, about 90 km distant. Their property is devoid of stock due to wild dog activity that destroyed more than 90% of their last lambing. All activity is now directed at dog proof fencing!



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White Cliffs is an opal field and an amazing town. We enjoyed a fascinating tour down a mine. We didn't stay at the Underground Motel as there are no ensuite rooms!

Light rain cancelled our visit to Menindee, so we drove via historic Wilcannia and Cobar to Condobolin and along the Lachlan River to Hillston, a lovely town with a particularly tangible friendly ambience. Next day off to Hay via Booligal, but no hell at this time of year. From Hay we went to Temora via thriving Griffith and then to Parkes and home.

### Observations and Surprises

We saw almost no kangaroos. Trilby staff told us the drought had killed them

We felt most welcome everywhere, even walking down the street. Old world community warmth.

Trilby Station has been in the hands of the Murray family for 6 generations. The western shearing shed was 96 km from the homestead! It was originally part of Dunlop Station that was 2,500,000 acres! The flood plain at Trilby is pretty flat with an average gradient of 16cm per km!



The White Cliff miner sells opal clusters, 'Pineapples' in the USA for US \$500,000 each.

A driver bogged on the closed road from Menindee to Ivanhoe was advised that no help would come and there was a \$3000 fine. Police asked if they had water. The road opened the next day, but we never find out about the bogged vehicle. Driving on wet roads ploughs them up.

We were sorry to miss Willandra National Park and Homestead due to the road closures.

Windmills have been replaced by solar powered electric pumps due partially to the high incidence of accidents associated with windmills.

Several families of emus were seen, one poor Dad had 11 chicks to look after

Good quality accommodation was readily available for about \$140. Most rooms had toasters and microwaves. However, country travel is popular, and it is advisable to book ahead.

Be sure to have sufficient fuel to reach the fuelling station beyond the nearest one. At one location a motorist was stranded due to an inoperable petrol pump. We were lucky requiring diesel.

We travelled in a Subaru Outback, but any car could manage this trip. We seek byroads, many of which are gravel/dirt and subject to weather.

The distances are vast, as overall we travelled more than 4000km, further than Sydney to Perth.



**Thoroughly recommended!**

**Tony Andrew**