
STEVE AND MAREE RINGROSE

Follow Steve and Maree as they travel Australia and the Globe on exciting adventures.

14/04/2017 BY STEVE RINGROSE

Bungonia National Park April 2017

Day One – Arrival

For the Easter weekend we decided we would go camping in Bungonia National Park. Bungonia is an easy drive from Canberra with the caravan attached. We went in through Goulburn not realising that the Lansdowne Bridge was out. Of course there was a sign telling us about 300 metres from the road closure and of course not the easiest spot to try and turn around. But with some reversing we managed to get facing in the direction we have just arrived from.

Just prior to getting to Lansdowne Bridge we had to pass under the railway bridge and sign indicated its height was 2.7 metres. Now I was sure my van's height was 2.8 metres so I quickly came to a stop and examined the situation before make a decision whether to go under the bridge. Having sized things up I was satisfied we could get under the bridge and clear the roof of the van. My van must be a tad lower than I thought or the 2.7 metres height restriction included a good safety margin.

After turning around we pulled over to the side of the road to work out how to get around the closed road. The GPS wasn't a lot of help in this regard as it kept directing us back to the Lansdowne Bridge. Of course a few detour signs would have assisted but none were out. So we headed back on the road towards Bungendore via Tarago to see if we could find a detour. After about two kilometres we came across a detour sign. The sign didn't say it was the Lansdowne Bridge detour. Just a yellow sign with the word "Detour" printed on it. So turning left we thought we were on our way again; well we were until we reached a T intersection with no additional detour signs. The GPS said go left so on this occasion we followed **her** advice. Another two kilometres down the road and we came across the main road to Bungonia. We were on our way again at last.

After a pleasant drive through the country on what turned out to be a very good sealed road we arrived at the Bungonia National Park.



Van setup in Bungonia National Park

We drove around looking for an ideal spot; finding it a pleasure not having to be told where we would have to park. We selected a secluded location along pump house road, backed the van in and setup for the weekend. Shortly after setting up a group of young people arrived and pitched tent diagonally opposite us. A tad noisy to start with but they settled down and our first night was very pleasant and peaceful. The sky was clear and stars just incredible. I had forgotten how lovely the night sky is once you leave the bright lights of suburbia.

Day Two – Exploring The Park

After a very peaceful sleep we decided that after breakfast we would attempt some of the walks through the park. We selected the 6.7 kilometre three hour walk. Unfortunately the path was very rocky and awkward for Maree to navigate with her strained knee. So we decided we would drive to the different lookouts.

The first location we drove too was Jerrara Lookout. The views are incredible. You get to see across the canyon where far below the Bungonia creek flows; well sort of flows.



View from Jerrara Lookout

From here we went to Adam's lookout. There are two lookouts at this location. One looks out over the canyon and the other looks out over the canyon and the South Marulan Limestone Quarry. When you walk out along the platform you can look straight down into the canyon some 130 metres below. I didn't venture that far out but Maree did and she said the views where incredible.



View From Adam's Lookout with Maree

We stopped at a lovely little spot for lunch enjoying the sandwiches we packed for our outing. The spot was so nice we thought we would come back tomorrow and use the BBQ at this location for our lunch. The BBQ is free and spotless. The park rangers look after this place very well. Well it was time to head back to the van and start preparations for dinner. Tonight the menu is roast leg of lamb with all the trimmings on the Weber.

Day Three – At Leisure

A leisurely day today. In the middle of the night around 00:30 there were five loud bangs on the rear of the van. I investigated expecting to find someone out there, but nothing. With torch in hand I did a recce and found nothing disturbed or taken so not

sure what had caused the noise; perhaps an animal. This morning I checked the van and all the surrounds thoroughly and there was absolutely no evidence of anyone having been there and certainly nothing taken or disturbed. So not sure what made the noise but it made for a restless night's sleep for the remainder of the night. Later that morning we went for a drive around the area outside the park and then returned to the picnic spot inside the park for our BBQ lunch.



Steve cooking the snags for Lunch

It is very peaceful in the park this evening as most people have left to return home after the long weekend. Dinner tonight will be Chateaubriand with some freshly roasted corn and roast potatoes; all done on the Weber of course. I really do enjoy cooking outdoors.

Day Four – Heading Home

No issues with noise last night and we both had a peaceful night's sleep. With the noise levels being quite low, as most people had left the park, we noted that there were a lot more birds in the trees around the van. Mostly small green finches chirping away as we ate breakfast. After our leisurely breakfast we packed up and headed for home. We headed off towards Marulan thinking it better to join the Hume highway at this point rather than traverse Goulburn and that low bridge or go via Tarago and Bungendore. Traffic was continuous on the Hume with people returning home after the break. No issues though for us and it was a pleasant drive and certainly a great weekend in the National Park. We will return to Bungonia on another weekend. It is a great place to relax.

Maree and Steve

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