

DAY 14 and 15 Marryat Creek to Coober Pedy

This was the only day the weather was horrible. It was a hot wind which whipped up the dust into clouds especially as we neared Coober Pedy.

The Model A's handled the day except for Des Addison's ute developing a rattle noise from under the bonnet. It was the rivets coming loose on his original four blade fan. Des removed the four blades and carried on without a fan, after a short stop. When in Coober Pedy he fitted a new two blade which Brett had under the seat. We arrived in Coober Pedy late that afternoon and we booked into the first caravan park which would allow us to carry out repairs on a car!

First thing next morning Peter, Ross and myself started removing the Phaeton diff. We borrowed several large blocks and an industrial trolley jack from a local Opal miner who just happened to drive through the park and stopped to admire our cars! (he did accept a donation when Peter took his gear back that afternoon?) Once the diff was removed the universal fell out in four pieces! The four rivets had broken and were all twisted and also fell out. Fortunately the park allowed us to use their small workshop and we rebuilt the universal using four quarter inch high tensile bolts and hammered the protruding threads over. There was quite a bit of grinding and hammering to get the universal into a working state. I have never seen a universal joint so worn, the once round bearing pieces were out of shape! To cut a long story short, our repaired universal is still in the Phaeton and still going well! By lunch time the vehicle was ready for the rest of the trip and we spent the afternoon sight seeing.



Inside an underground house which is still lived in. You pay \$5 pp and have a guided tour. The house was built in the 1920s by two women. The temperature is in the mid/low twenties all year round.