

Hello,

I find it hard to believe that the end of phase one of my journey will end in a few days and I'll arrive at "Trinidad", 200kms NW of Quilpie. I spoke to Wendy today- she's had her baby and is now back at Trinidad awaiting my arrival. The road is in good condition (there's approx 100kms dirt) and they're looking forward to meeting me.

I have travelled through Tamworth, Coonabarabran, Baradine and the Piliga National Park, Walgett and have spent the past two nights at Berwarrina. I'm not sure what to think about the barred windows on all the shops but all has been quiet in the 'caravan park' which is small and well kept with only one other van for company tonight after being the only one here last night. The country is amazingly flat after travelling from the 'mountains' of Coonabarabran and there are lots of "Floodway" signs and associated dips in the road. The Piliga National Park had incredible creeks that look like strips of sand but the water flows *under* the sand - it's still there in the dips over the road!

Berwarrina has the most amazing fish traps set up long ago by the Aborigines in the Barwon river and don't the birds love it now??? While I was walking there this morning there were hundreds of swallows diving and cavorting for the plethora of insects which buzz just above the water. Spoonbills and ibis waited patiently, examining the water studiously for the occasional fish and, no doubt, crustaceans to surface. There's not much else open on the weekend here but will go to the "Fish Trap Museum" on the way out of town tomorrow.

I will travel through Bourke to Barringun where I'm told a visit to the 86 year old female publican is an interesting way to have a drink! From there, through Cunnamulla and on to Charleville for a couple of nights before heading out to Quilpie.

I have attached some photos of my great nieces, Teah and Chelsea with their beautiful butterfly faces as well as some from my travels since parting from the family at Macmaster's Beach two weeks ago.

I hope all you and your families are thriving, if a bit chilly from the weather reports I hear - it's been chilly up here too and I enjoyed walking in the sun this morning after a bit of a frost over night.

Cheers for now,

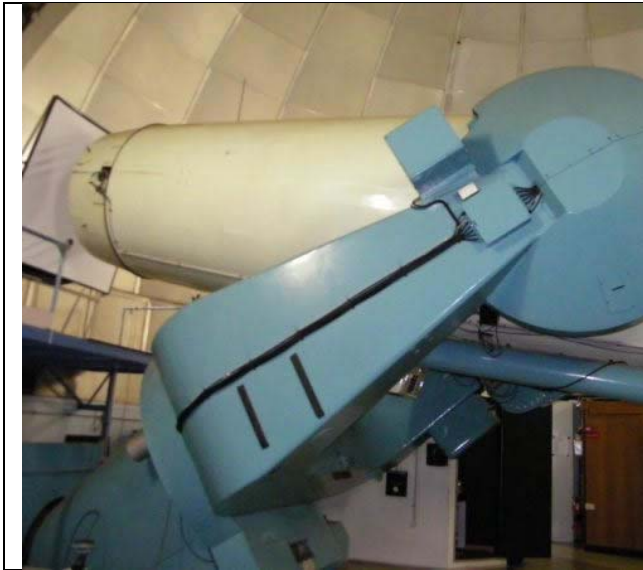
Love to all,

Ann



Forests and Rivers





Siding Springs Observatory



The Warrumbungles National Park