

Reflections at Lyndon Station ~ 2...

Just after I'd emailed the last Reflections, Cath said, "We're going on a picnic to the lake. Coming?" Four kids, three adults and Daisy the dog piled into the car and off we went, westwards, I think. A glimpse of water announced our arrival at the rapidly drying up lake with the mud of various colours and dampness contrasting against the muddy water which was busy with a flock of ducks and other birds- until we got there! Zizzie disappeared across the lake and up a tree almost before the car stopped, Mollie Beetle and Grif



were not far behind. I walked *around* the mini lake after them not fancying the colour of the water! In the dried mud at the edge a butterfly alighted to test the mud for moisture and I was mesmerised by the gossamer wings as can be seen by the shadow. Zizzie and I wandered looking at the many nests some high some not and the large bird that could be seen near the biggest nest ~ a kite, I think. Groups of brilliantly coloured galahs contrasted with the greenery surveyed us closely. As we wandered far from the others on the picnic mat the carpet



of tiny pink plants covered the mud, as well as a plant with tiny, yellow, ball-like flowers.



are many. The budgies and finches can be heard around the house, down at the 'river' and were at the lake but until now I've not been able to see any of them. I think this one might have had young in the nest and was guarding it, luckily for me! Grif went 'whoopsy' into the mud and, I'm told, hates being dirty. The baby is crying and we've enjoyed the picnic so it's time to pack up and head home for quick showers to wash the mud off.



We came upon a wondrous tree, sweeping the ground with its branches but tent like inside, where its branches curled and twisted



around and down quite like nothing I've seen before. The 'tide marks' can be seen on all the gnarled trunks and the nesting sites



The schoolroom on Monday was NOT a happy place with Zizzie's anger erupting from start to finish and, in fact, she wasn't with us much for she spent most of the day in 'time out' sitting on the veranda screaming! And Tuesday started out the same until privileges were withdrawn. Breakfast with Daddy was first to go, computer time and playing in the chook pen were next! With that in mind, she changed, and the remainder of the day was fantastic - she felt better inside too!



As I was walking to the schoolroom this morning 'dinner' appeared on the front end loader and was ferried to the cool room on a trolley. A beast had been killed yesterday, and sweetbreads, cheek and flaps sizzled on the bbq last night! Most were thrilled and enjoyed their treat and feasted on liver at breakfast too! Yours truly resisted the temptation!!!! And will resist the rest too!! No need to worry about my tummy being empty as Virginia, the Irish cook, produces beautiful meals and desserts and there is always plenty of vegies



and salads.
Clouds appeared
like cottonwool
up in the sky today,
the first I've seen
since I've been here
and so the sunset
promised
to be better
and I went
a wandering
to find
a likely spot.
I remembered
the windmill
whizzing around
when the wind
was blowing hard
and off I went,
with camera in hand.
The sun was huge
and red
and sinking fast,
but hidden by the bushes
so there was
but a glimpse
of the flaming ball
through leaves
and wires
and windmill stand



though
the clouds above
were shining.
I moved this way
and that
to get more sun
but the bushes
stood in the way
another spot
I'll have to get
for the next time
clouds come our way.
While wandering
around
to see the sky
an old steam machine
I remembered,
so while I was there
I captured it
standing silently
among the grass
and eucalypts,
slowly rusting.
Later at dinner
I'm told it was
the first power supply
for the property.
There have been
birthdays this week.
Emma, the au pair



was first
then Virginia's.
Virginia had made
a cake for Emma,
a luscious
cheese cake topped
brownie,
So Emma and Cath
got to work for
Virginia...
and what a result!!!!
Layers of meringue
sandwiched with
a rich chocolate,
alcohol infused
mousse with
raspberries a top!!!!
Yummy!!!!!!
It'll be salads for days
after those two.
The remainder of the week
was school and more school
though the last two days
have seen a VAST
improvement, phew!
Zizzie has had
a 2 star day
then a 3 star day
to finish the week...
She was able to look



in the mirror
and say to reflection,
"I'm a super star!"

8 days ago
she only just uncurled
enough
to see herself
when she looked
in the mirror
and whispered,
"I'm a star"

What a difference
a week's made!
Not to mention
adults working
together!
And so ends
week 2...

I have settled in,
the schoolroom is
a much nicer place to be
and Winter arrived
in a burst yesterday!
A westerly squall blew in
there was a little rain
and now the wind is
in the south
and I have jeans and a vest on
for the first time in quite a while!



The two faces of Mollie-Beetle.



That was to be the end
for this week,
but Sean gave a 'hoi'
and asked if I wanted
a ride in the plane!
Didn't have to think
about that for too long
and in I jumped!
They had two mobs
of cattle
already mustered
and now was the time
when they joined
the mobs together.
But first
there were a
few strays
to sort out!
They were hiding
under trees,
but not from
Sean's practised eye
and we banked sharply,
dived down to the
tree tops
and persuaded them
to move!
Between the strong
southerly
and the dipping



and weaving
to strongly suggest
to each mob
that they should
join the others,
we went around
and down
and up
and around
and around
for nearly 2 hours.
Towards the end
I had to keep my
eye on the horizon
or I was going
to lose the lot!
We flew over
the gas plant
and I was told
what bad 'neighbours'
they are!
More than that



I do not know!

The landscape as you can see is flat though rises can be seen way in the distance. Near the gas plant there were some very old, rocky ridges, running parallel to each other rising from the flat of the plains. The homestead area came into view and this time I was relieved, for my stomach was churning from the acrobatics and the noise - Sean's window was open so he could yell as we passed the stray mobs and I didn't have earphones! After landing, we went down to the yards to get them ready for the new mob



moving down the road towards them. While Sean did what he needed to do, I observed a young 'buck' and an old bull sparring nearby.



The river
Matilda's windbreak
Main house
Schoolhouse
and some of the various, unexplored, outbuildings....