

OUTBACK ADVENTURE

NOWAK TRAVELOGUE | APRIL, MAY | 2012

Longreach & Winton

Every town in “outback channel country” expects travelers like us to linger longer. Longreach has a tourist attraction that most people have heard about - the Stockman’s Hall of Fame. It also has the Qantas Aviation Museum. We decided to stay two nights so we could enjoy them unrushed but after sleeping in and spending the rest of the morning food shopping we only had time to visit the Stockmans centre. Interesting, but there was far too much reading involved and very little interactive media. The information and exhibits were very good but after 2 hours one soon gets sick of reading. The centre documents the history of the indigenous people of the area, the many pioneers, the settlements, the war years and the role stockmen and women played in the region. The temperature hit 38c so we gave Qantas a miss and spent the rest of the day relaxing in the shade of our campsite and then went for a bike ride around the town in the cool of the evening.



Road train country

The size and the number of road trains on the highways are amazing. We have to be very careful when wanting to overtake them. They are very courteous and give you signals but we were overawed by their lengths.



ONE BIG DRAY There were many static displays of early transportation. Pity there was only one working display - cattle roundup and branding. We missed this because it only occurs at 11am. We had to read about it!!!!



HUGE SHEDS? The size of the Stockman’s Hall of Fame is enormous but fully air conditioned. There are 5 separate areas and it can take a few hours of your time to go through all the exhibitions.



THE OUTBACK There are hundreds of stories about ordinary men and women (unsung heroes) who toiled to make the outback what it is today. Very interesting reading.

COBB & CO



We watched as this coach rattled down the main street of Longreach. All the local towns were serviced by Cobb & Co. Each town lays claim to having the most important link with this early mail delivery and passenger service. Charleville was where the wagons were manufactured, Longreach became the company's administrative centre and Winton claimed the first paying passenger run to Longreach.

We hear the same story about Qantas. Each town has similar claims. There are Cobb & Co and Qantas places of interest in most places in the outback.

Red Red Dirt



WINTON'S TOURIST GEMS

Winton and the surrounding area is dinosaur country. As we imagined, it's dusty but the recent heavy rains have made the area "look fantastic" (according to the locals). We decided to stay two nights and visit The Walzing Matilda Centre, Australian Age of the Dinosaurs and the Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways. All three are definitely worth seeing.

The Matilda Centre documents early history in a different way to the Stockman's Hall of Fame. There are lots more interactive and active displays so 2 hours spent here were magic. Sig's highlight was bumping (literally) into Simon Crean, the Labour Government Minister who was in Winton to open the new Age Of Dinosaur reception centre.

At the Age of Dinosaurs centre we viewed actual dinosaur bones being reclaimed and documented. Australia is now on the international map as one of the most interesting places to view new species of dinosaur. At Larry Quarry, a round trip of 220kms, we saw the footprints of different sorts of dinosaurs as they rushed away from a predator. Amazing.

Winton's main street just before a storm. A butcher, a baker but no candlestick maker. A fruit barn and 2 pubs, but no supermarket - just a corner grocer. The local newsagent sells newspapers that are 2 days old.



Heather getting exercise.

