

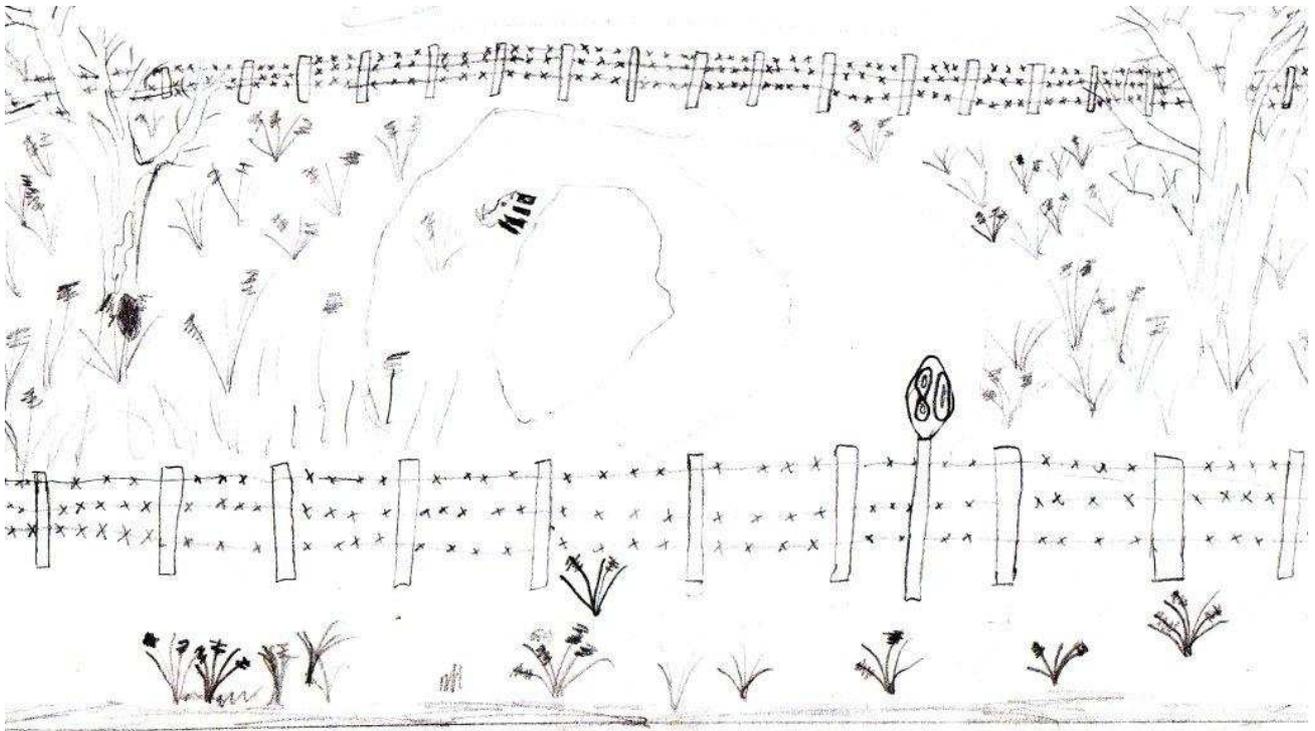
SIMPSON TRIP BY ALEX ORGAN

Day One

It started fun but got boring and we were all squished together. Over all the mountains and hills early in the morning before school started and lots of traffic, travelling slow but fast easy and hard. After we were through the mountains it just started to get flatter, flatter and flatter and then all the big farms started. I saw a dead cow near a dam, lots of sheep and cattle and huge hectares of land with tractors ploughing them up. Then dirt started but we were still on the tar only the tracks leading off the tar were dirt. After a while it started to get dark so we stopped and camped at Mulga Creek Hotel for the night.

Day two

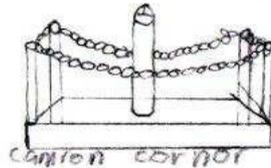
Early start cold morning leaving Mulga Creek, driving along the cut line road 100 kms off the Queensland border, aiming for Mt Wood Station within the Sturt Stony Desert. Driving along the dirt spotted some Kangaroos and stopped to wait for Carl. So we played bowling with paddy melons and cut a face in one. Off again and had lunch at the Bourke wharf. Now driving through the Sturt Stony Desert finally get to the camp and there's about 80 Cockatoos.



Day three

Cold start in the morning so went for a walk on the stony desert to watch the sunrise. Just coming back when Mum comes and she's found an old horse shoe. Going back and ready to leave driving on rocks aiming straight for the Queensland New South Wales border. We got lost at 11.48am and found our way to Cameron Corner and stopped at the Corner Store and pub. After the pub we went and got photos at the very corner then we went and camped somewhere along the Merty Moomba road and for the first time had a roaring fire and it was the best night on the trip so far.

OLD IN SW



Canton CORNOT

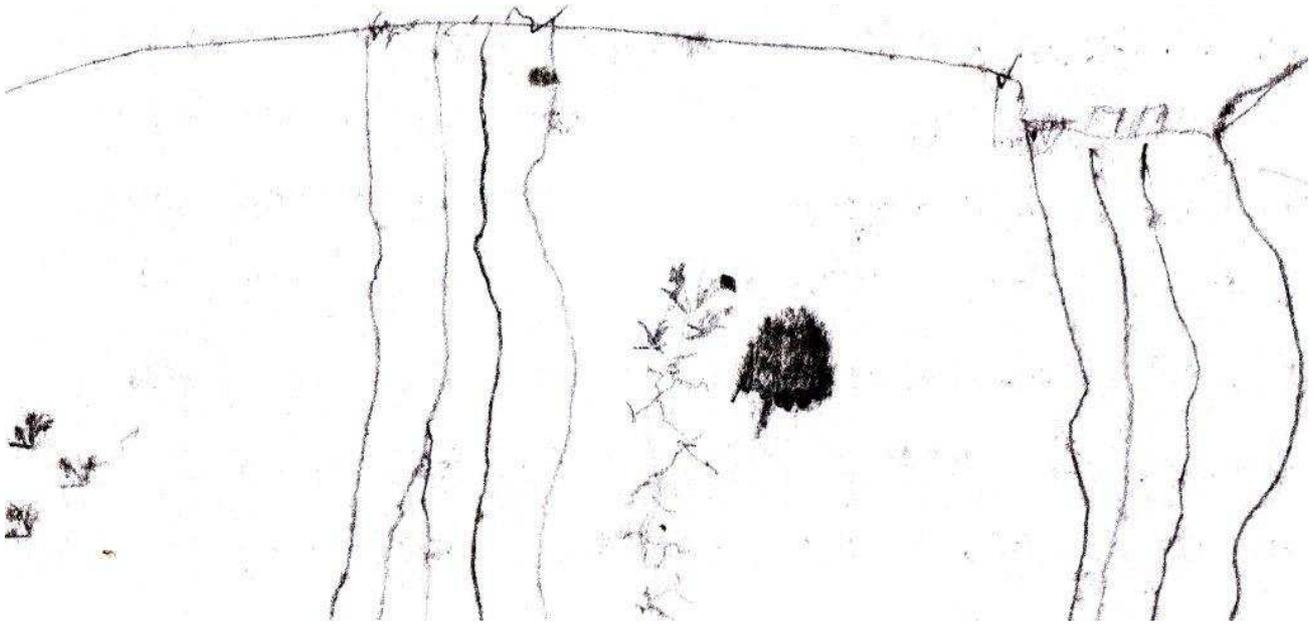
SOUTH AUST

Day four

It was a cold morning but I reckon it could get colder. It was an amazing sunrise it was so good I drew a picture of it. We drove past Coopers Creek and into Innamincka and for the first time in 4 days I had a shower. Then we had a drink at the pub and went to find somewhere to camp. When we were collecting firewood Carl fell over and we found the first lizard on the trip, that night I also made my own fire. It kept me warm for the night.

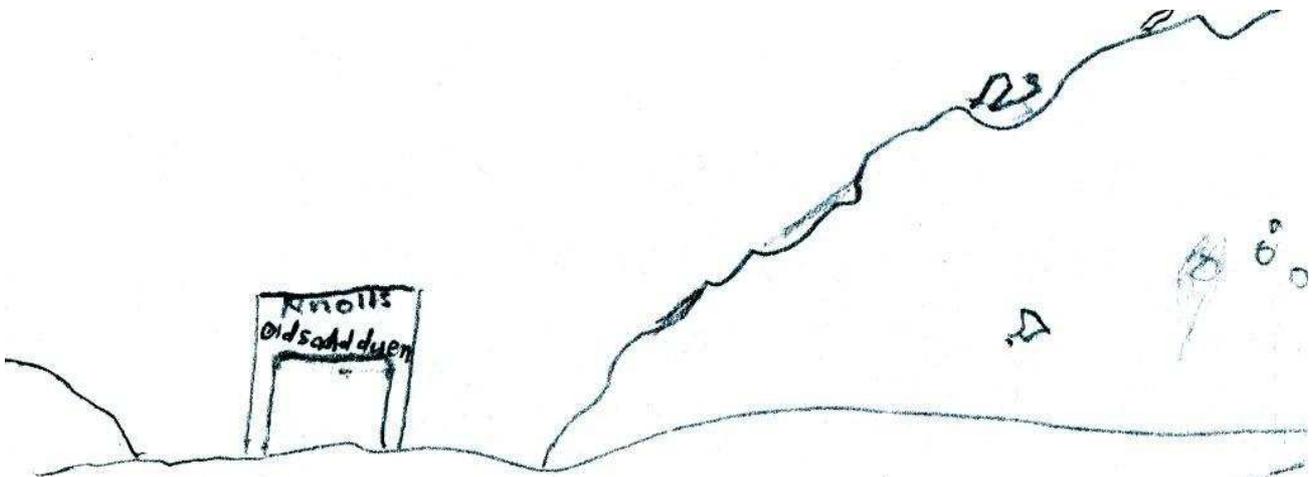
Day five

It was the first warmer morning but it sprinkled rain at 4.30am and then the wind started to whip the tent. Mum was already awake the rain woke her up. When everyone was awake and we were packing up, in Ben's chair a Gecko had eaten a dead moth and ran from the chair under my foot, I drew a picture of it. Off now going along where it had rained and we were bouncing everywhere. After that there were a few people over the hill and we caught up to them, we had a talk and then we went on. Got to Birdsville and had lunch. We posted 2 postcards and went to the bakery then on the track we went through 2 huge puddles and went around 1, we just got to the lake crossing when Carl got stuck on the track where you had to go around the puddle, we came back and snatch strapped him out. We crossed the lake and then we saw the first sand dune, over that another one, after a few more we saw Big Red and it was the reddest hill. It took us 2 goes but Carl stayed back so we came back down and went over a few sand dunes and found a good spot in the sand to camp.



Day six

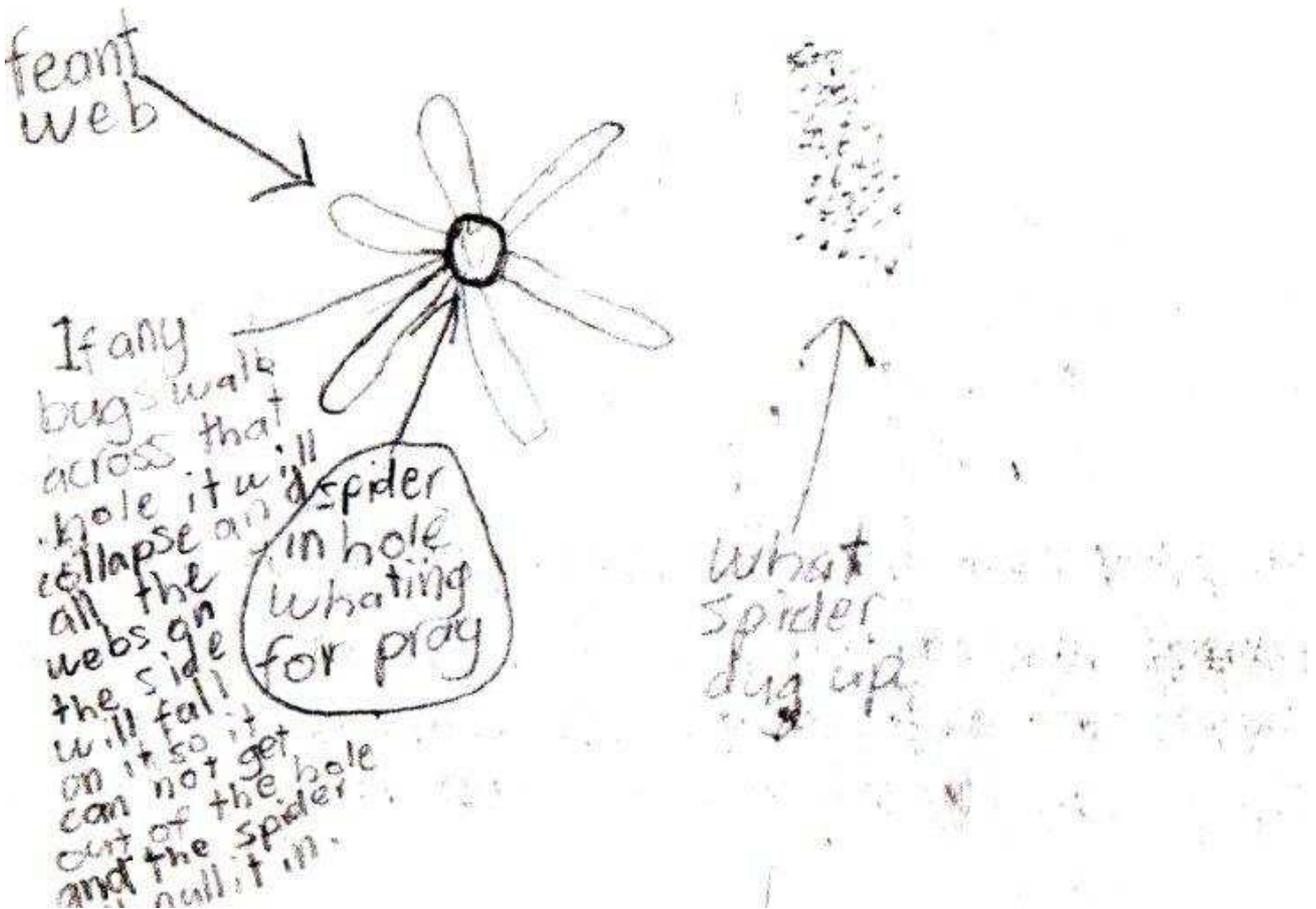
It was the clearest morning yet and the sun was almost up, we were hoping to reach Poeppel Corner and the Knolls track. Crossing the Simpson was hard and they say everyone has a breakdown but Carl's flag fell off and mum teased him but the big one was our gas tank cover broke and one of the brackets fell off so you couldn't bolt it back on. We took it off and then we left but the airbag leaked so every 2 hours we had to stop and pump it up. Off now going over bumps on big ones the wheel gets the guard. Once we reached Poeppel Corner we had lunch and took some photos and Carl's flag was ripped to shreds so he cut it and made it a triangle. Then we went over about 5 salt plains and found a good camp site with firewood already there.



Day seven

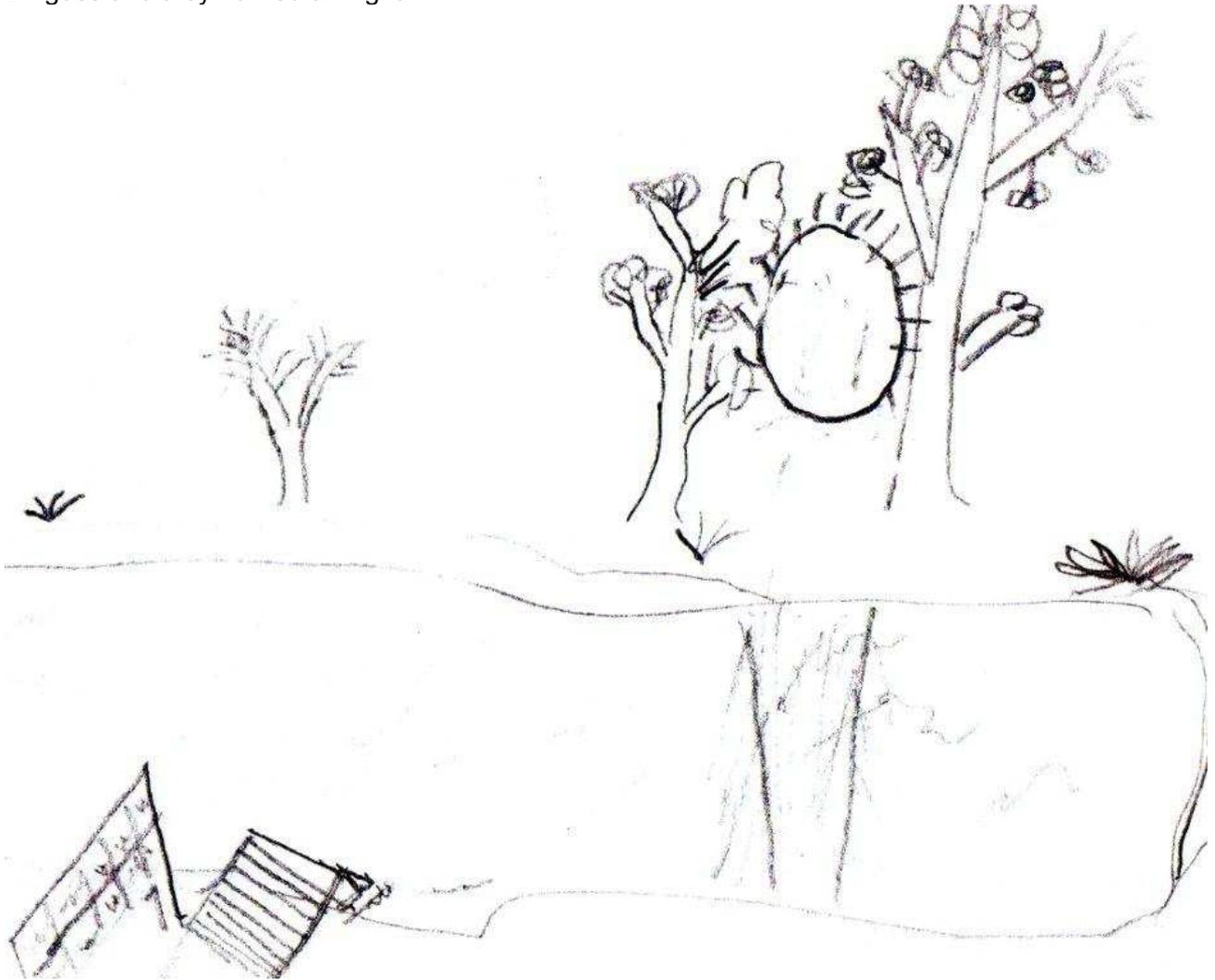
It was the coldest morning on the trip and for the first time frost was on the table and car especially the rack sack. Packing everything up we were ready to go earlier so we could get further. The corrugations were worse today than any other day and crossing only 1 salt lake. Still we had to stop every 2 hours to pump up the air bag, trying to get as far as we could down the WAA line. We were 4km away from Linnies junction so we stopped and camped in between 2 sand dunes and went up to the top of one had dips and watched the sunset.

Spider trap



Day eight

Cold morning with an alright start hoping to get out of the desert. Heading out of the WAA on to the Rig road, on it the sand dunes got better the track got worse and the hills got bigger with holes in them. We were close to finishing, when we got to the French line we passed about 8 people. On that road the corrugations got so bad that we used the side track. When we got to Purni Bore we were hoping to have a swim in the warm water but it was all mucky and yucky and it was not warm. We took some photos of camel bones and we headed off for Dalhousie Springs. Once we got there we went down to the hot water and had a swim. We came back and setup. That night we were surrounded by Dingoes and they howled all night.



Day nine

It started a bit nervous in the morning but got better because the Dingoes that howled all night were leaving. We got up and went for a swim in the hot pools. We came back and packed up and got ready to leave just before that we were looking for Tim's soccer ball because we had lost it. Today was different because today we were splitting up with Carl & Colleen because they were going to Oodnadatta and we were going to Alice Springs. So we said bye and split as we went we saw 2 more Dingoes, Heading out we followed the Old Ghan railway but it wasn't really a railway because there was no track there is only remains of it. There was a caravan that was stuck so everyone in front had

to wait and get off the road and while they got it out we collected train track parts. When we left we were in front of everyone. When we got to Alice Springs we found our friends in the park, after a chat we left to go to their home.

Day ten

It might have been a warm morning in Sydney but it was a bit cold in Alice. Angus, one of the boys that live in Alice had to go to rugby league, when he got back we had pancakes and his friend came over. Angus's Dad said that in the afternoon we could go ride the motorbikes but first we were only allowed to ride the bikes. Finally the time came but I was a bit nervous because it was the first time I had ridden a motorbike (2 wheels), so I jumped on the pw50 and sped off. I got a couple of goes the 80 and then went back to the 50, on my last lap I fell off and got a big graze on my face. We left to go home but we stopped and washed the mud off the car then drove home.

Day eleven

It was a boring day with nothing to do but we went to the park. We came home and had lunch, we spent the rest of the day at home and getting ready to leave the next day.

Day twelve

It started as a warm morning but a cold breeze. Having breakfast and getting ready, filling up the drink bottles and putting all the bags back on the roof. Saying goodbye and driving out of Alice through Heavytree Gap and onto the Stuart Hwy aiming for Coober Pedy. We stopped for lunch on the side of the road, we stopped to fuel up at Kulgera. Driving for 6 hours and we finally reached the Opal fields, there were millions of holes with millions of piles of dirt. We got into Coober Pedy and there were heaps of underground motels and opal shops. We found one that was nice, once we looked inside we sped off to the Break-a-ways and we climbed on a easy hill and a really hard hill that we slipped on, getting up we saw a Rock Wallaby and then we went to an opal shop. We got free opal finding kits and a few free opal samples and I bought a piece of opal then we went home.

Day thirteen

It started as a silent, dark and warm morning it was one of the best nights on the trip. We packed up and headed out of the motel and went to more opal shops, we saw Jack Absalom so we got some photos and then went to have a coffee at Didgeridoos café. After that we went along the William Creek road. We got to William Creek and went to the pub, the population there was 4, we had a drink and left for Coward Springs. We stopped halfway for a break and looked at the old buildings. We got to Coward Springs on time so we had a walk around and looked at the small spring which was only 25C, went back and set up for the night.

Day fourteen

It was a cold start to the day but we had a walk to warm up. We went to the train driver's cottage and read a few of the stories. We left when it warmed up going along the Oodnadatta track hoping to get to the Flinders Ranges. We got to Marree and read a few stories, one of them was about the Marree Man. We had some lunch and then went to look at the old Ghan trains and a mail truck. Then we went to pick up some sleepers and then camped at Brachina Gorge in the Flinders Ranges.

Day fifteen

It was a really cold morning but we didn't get to go on a walk, instead we drove through the Flinders Ranges to do a reccy for next years trip. We were running late so we had to hurry up, we got to Peterborough for lunch. Then we shot off for Broken Hill, we got there at 5pm and looked for a caravan park but Mum was a bit sick so we stayed in a cabin for the night.

Day sixteen

It was a bright morning with the sun shining through the curtains but it was cold when you got out of bed. We had pancakes, packed up and then kicked the footy around. We left to have a look at some

shops and the Geocentre, it was probably the most boring day yet but we couldn't tell because tomorrow was the same. We made up a game where we all picked a brand of car and counted them as they passed. By the time it was 11am Dads phone got reception so we called Carl and asked where he was. He was about 5 hours in front. We stopped at a truck stop for lunch, we sped off to Dubbo. It was getting dark so we stopped at Cobar and that was the coldest night for the whole trip.

Day seventeen

It didn't start as an easy morning because we needed to get home and try to catch up to Carl. By the time it was 11am we called Carl and Colleen, they said they had just left Dubbo so they were only 2 hours in front of us. We played the same game and I spotted 16 Emus and 8 Kangaroos, by the time we got to Dubbo it was lunch time, but we kept going to Orange to catch up with some friends and had lunch there. Then we shot off to Bathurst, it was boring sitting in the car, we drove through the mountains and got home in the dark.

Alex Organ