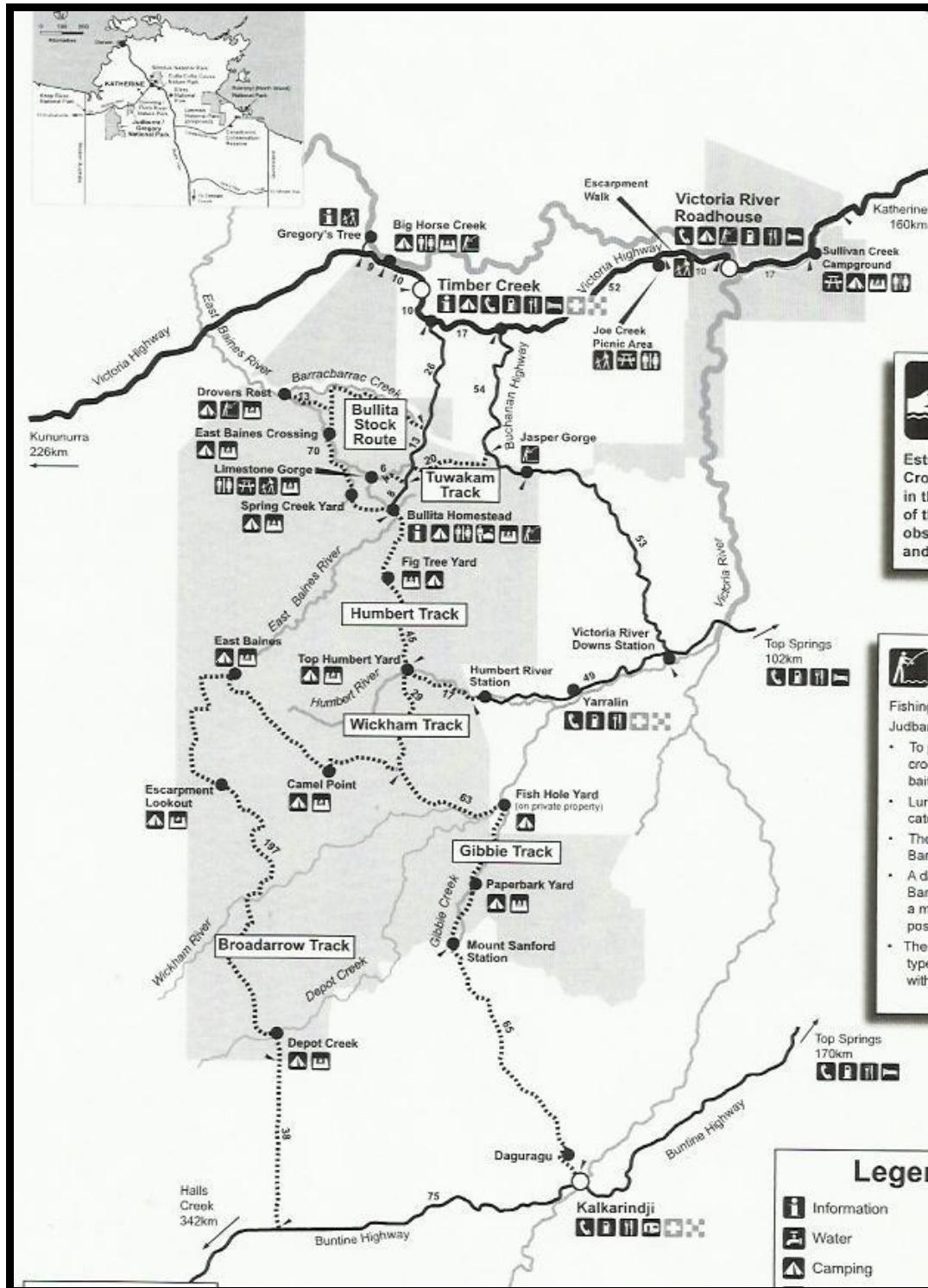
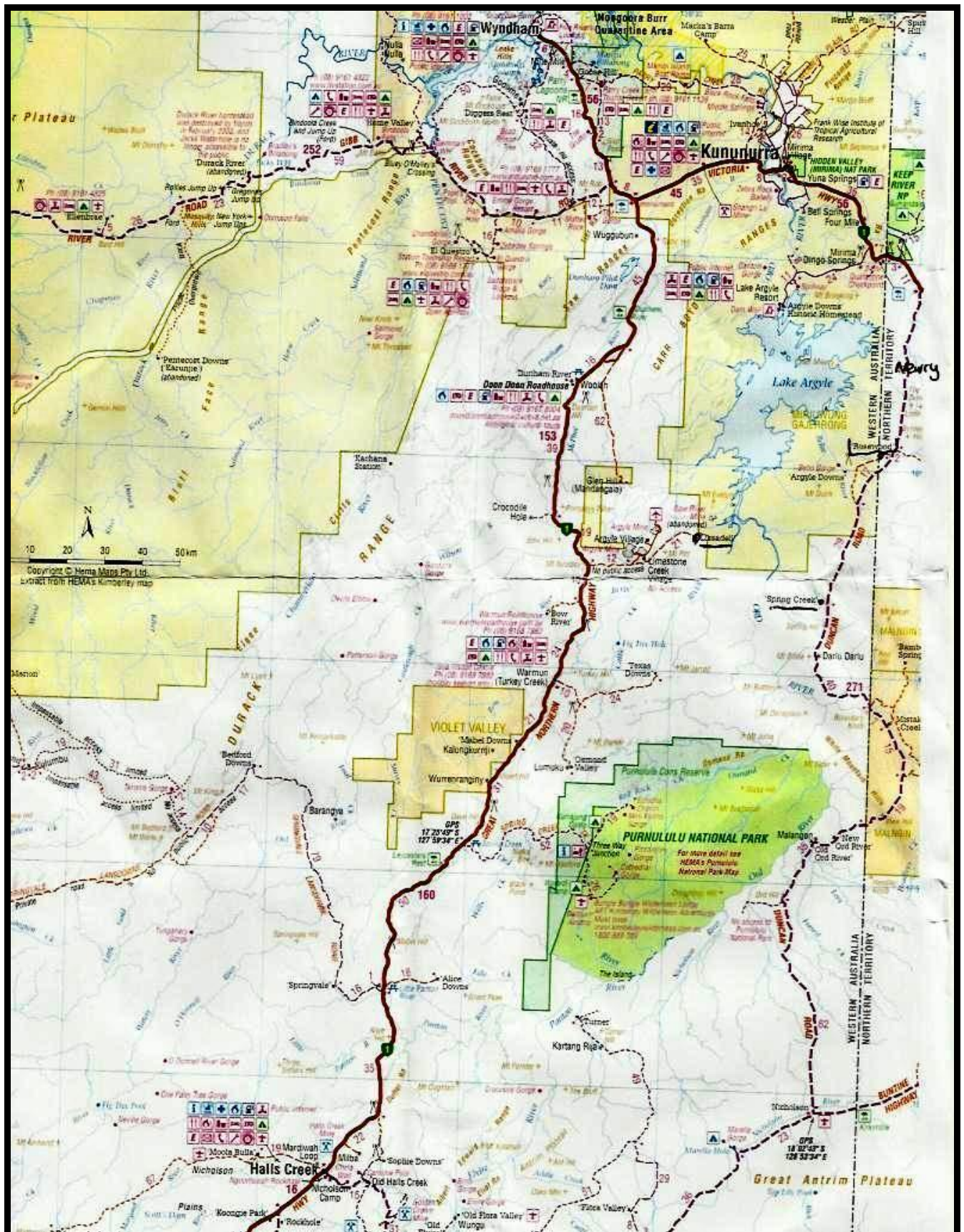


Historical Society of the NT's Field Trip to Rosewood, Kildurk & Lissadell Stations, 26-29 July 2013

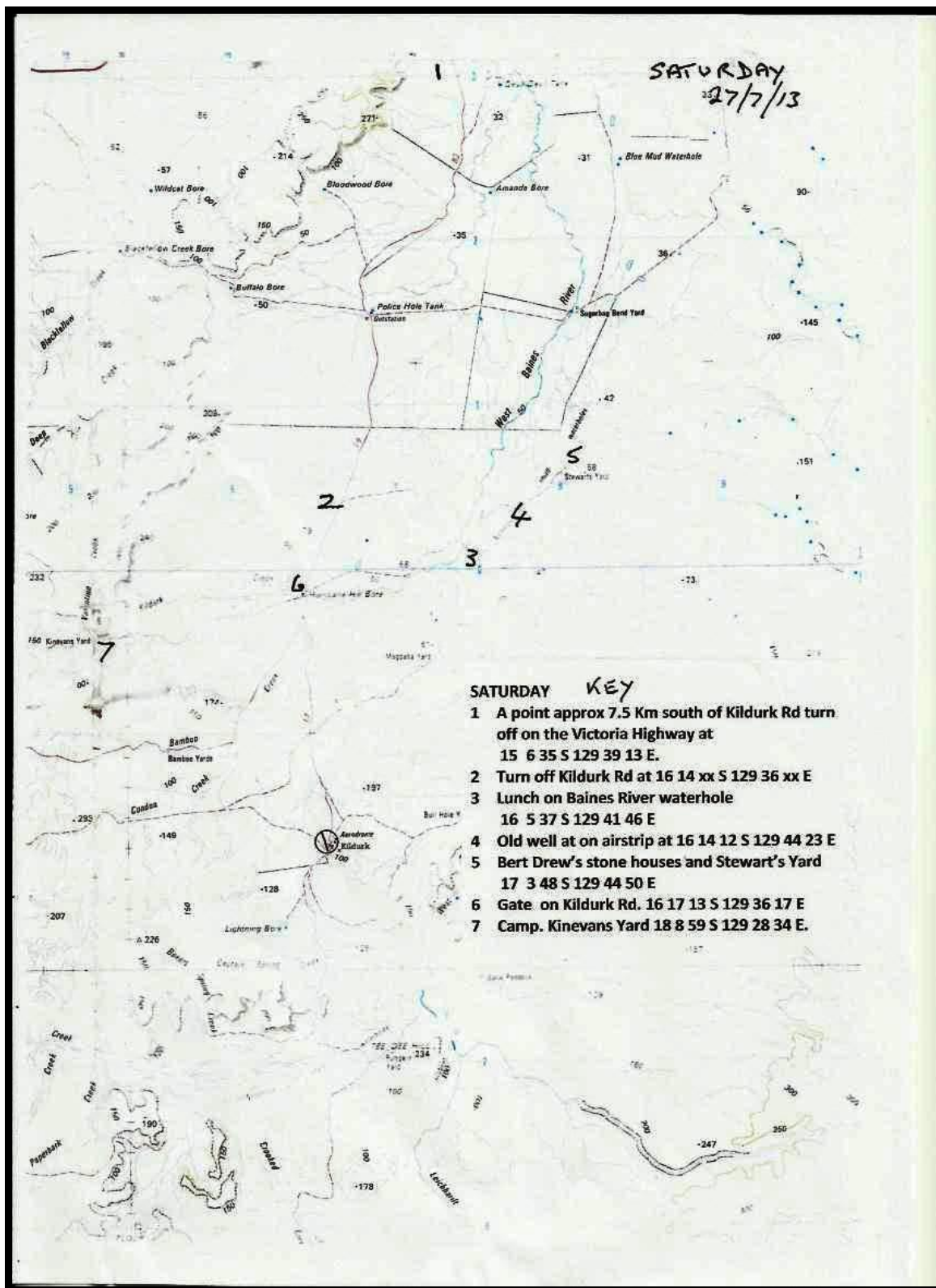
By Bev Phelts

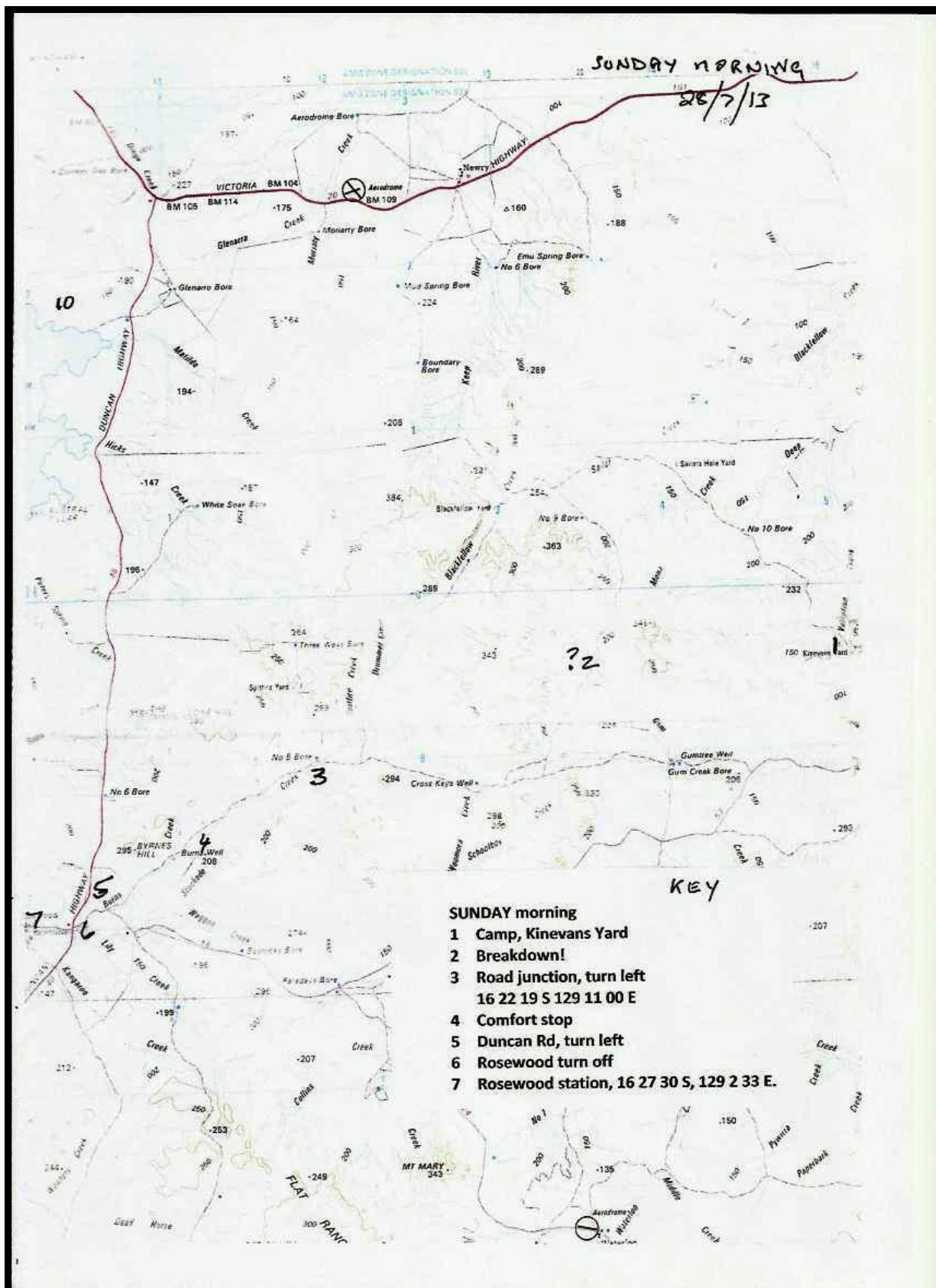
Pages 1 – 5 show the route we took

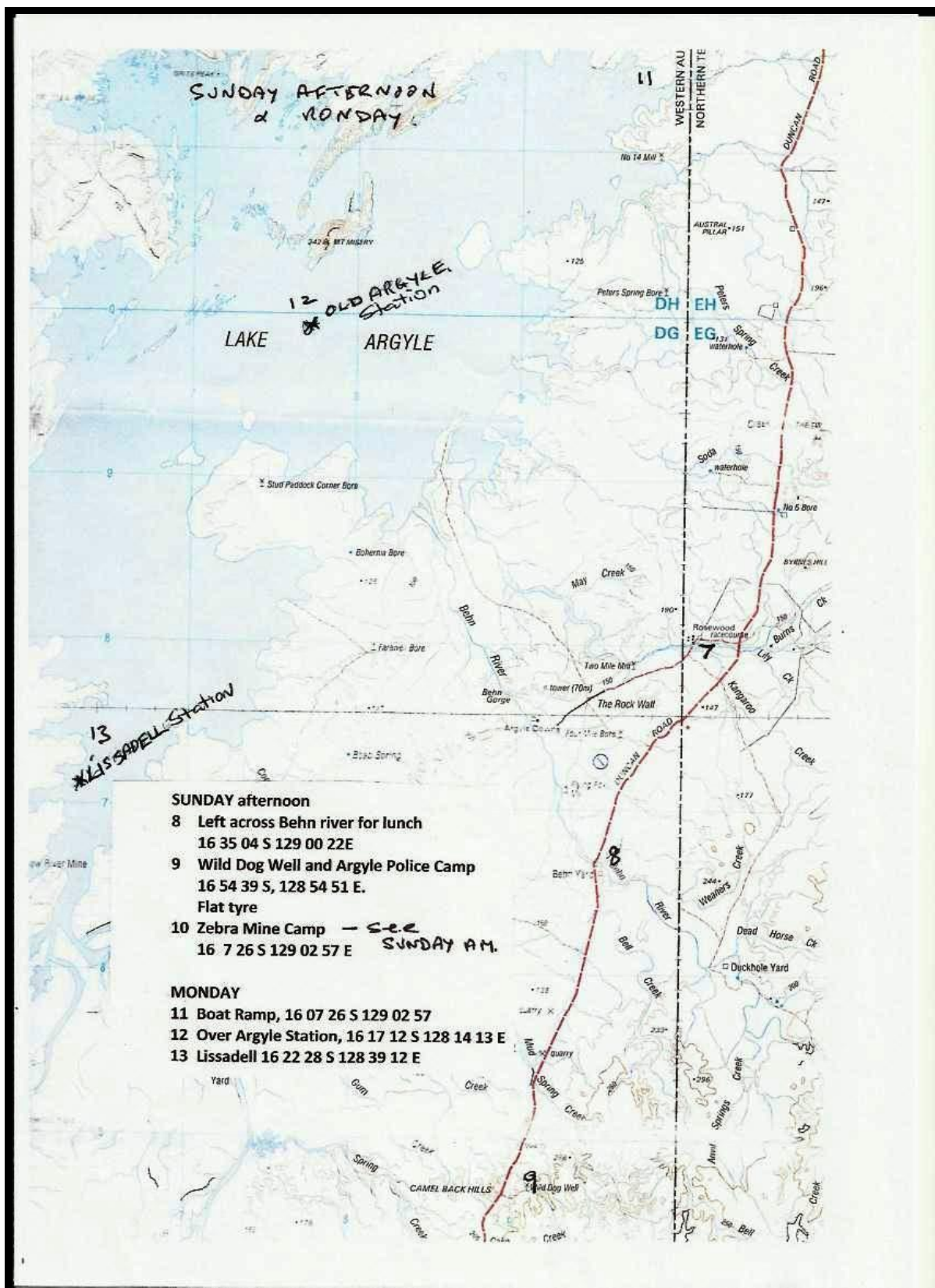




For those who are into GPS data, Lyn Reid has provided the following -







First day out was spent driving from Darwin to Timber Creek Roadhouse arriving at lunchtime. It was planned to all meet up in the pub that night. Arriving before the others we decided to do some touristy activities around Timber Creek. We headed for Gregory National Park and the Augustus Gregory base camp on the Victoria River. To explore this magnificent area, Gregory needed to set up a “permanent” camp and bring in enough supplies to support 19 men. His schooner, Tom Tough sailed 145km up the Vic River to unload supplies at the camp. Fifty horses and 200 sheep were brought in but many of the sheep didn’t survive the journey. Small huts were built with local timber and paperbark, A boab tree was fashioned into a table and a drinking trough for the horses. We then visited the Nackerroo Lookout, the pioneer cemetery and the old Police Station.



The boab was carved by Thomas Baines in 1856



John Lawler’s grave beside the Victoria Highway. The 38 year old stockman slit his throat with a jam tin lid in December 1906
Judy Boland & Jane Farr



Nackerroo Lookout



Nackerroo Lookout views



Timber Creek Pioneer Cemetery
Local identities buried here are Ross & Ainslie Fogarty (storekeepers), Robert Brown, drover d.1935 & William Butler who died at the VRD Depot in 1921



Old Timber Creek Police Station



Inside Old Timber Creek Police Station, Jane Farr



Inside Old Timber Creek Police Station



Inside Old Timber Creek Police Station



Old Timber Creek Police Station lockup

We caught up with the rest of the group that night over tea, beer & wine. However, the icing on the cake was meeting up with Clive Stone who has been managing the Timber Creek Roadhouse for the past 17 years. Clive came to the area in 1965 and since that time, he has managed Rosewood, Kildurk and Argyle Stations from the 1970s-1990s. We spent a good part of the night hearing some wild stories. Clive also has a treasure trove of old photographs and Andrew Barker, President of the Kununurra Historical Society spent a couple of hours taking digital photos of these prized possessions.

The next morning we headed off to Kildurk and Rosewood Stations. Kildurk was established by the Duracks and Rosewood was established by Tom Kilfoyle in 1885. The current owner of Rosewood is the Government of Sarawak and the managers are Joanne and Doug Struber. Rosewood consists of one million acres, 25,000-30,000 cattle and twelve employees.



On the road



Out-front, Wendy Carter & Andrew Barker of the Kununurra Historical Society



Smoko in a river bed



Wendy Carter opening the many gates



First stop was Bert Drew's stone huts on Kildurk Station. Bert Drew was a donkey teamster c1900-1920s





The kitchen – Ruth Kerr, Janie Mason & Judy Boland



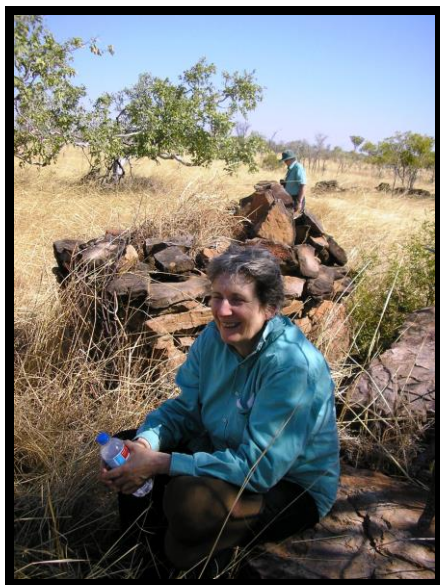
Sleeping quarters



Bert Drew's elaborate flaming fury



Reg & Enid Durack's, stone fence around the garden.
A lagoon is next to it which would have watered the garden
Wendy Carter and Brian Reid



Reg & Enid Durack's outdoor stone oven behind
Wendy Carter



stone fence around the garden

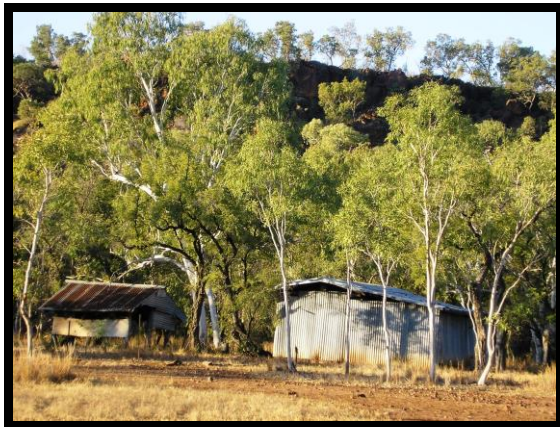
Reg & Enid built a homestead on this part of the station
in the early 1950s and raised 4 children
The homestead slab still exists, along with other stone
buildings, plenty of corrugated iron, & parts of motor vehicles.



Inspecting the remnants of an old bore and windmill



Tim Kinivan's Yard on the boundary of Kildurk & Rosewood Stations. This is the butchering shed Tim Kinivan died aged 80 in 1964. His headstone states that he was an "outstanding horseman"



We set up camp for the night in Kinivan's Yard



Tim Kinivan's stock yards



We then drove west to Rosewood Station homestead to meet Joanne Struber who very kindly let us see some Rosewood treasures.



Rosewood Station homestead



Chatting with Joanne (in the pink). In the background are the stone ruins of a swimming pool which was opened by the Governor General in 1923.



Border stone laid by Lord Cowrie in 1939. The homestead sits right on the NT/WA border



Underneath the water tank is the original butcher shed



Original stock fence



Original shed



Showing the water mark from Cyclone Ingrid in 2005



Inside the shed. Jane Farr



Inside the shed – old bridles & saddles



The slab/stone floor of the shed



Old machinery



Rosewood's famous round stone trough – an invention by Tom Kilfoyle



Judy Boland making friends with Rosewood's horses



Inquisitive Rosewood cattle and a dingo that came right up to our 4WD



Rosewood road trains

After meeting Joanne we headed down the Duncan via Spring Creek Station to the old Argyle Police Station on the Wild Dog Soak. The station was located on the route from Halls Creek and primarily there to protect the Overland Telegraph Line. It was abandoned around 1900



Remnants that remain are a timbered well, flaming furies, plenty of corrugated iron & building materials.



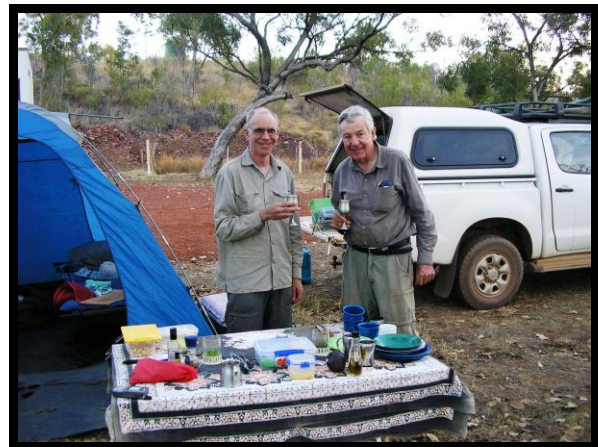
Some bits and pieces that Andrew Barker found



Camp that night was at the Zebra Rock Mine, north of the Duncan. Jane Farr opening the gate



Jane Farr & Judy Boland



Arthur Keates & Brian Reid



Next day, Kim Walker, the manager of the Mine took us to Lake Argyle for the boat trip to Lissadell Station. We travelled through Newry Station to get to the Lake.



The barren scenery on Newry was due to flooding a couple of years ago. Floods reached 70 feet and last year fierce winds knocked down what was left of the trees.

Lissadell Station had been established by the Duracks during the 1880s. When the Ord River/Lake Argyle was developed, the Station was flooded during the 1971/72 wet season. However due to low rainfall in the past couple of years, Lissadell Station has risen from its watery grave. The 2 hour boat trip to Lissadell from the Zebra Rock Mine was a full on wildlife show. Birds of all sorts were on show including the odd crocodile. With the water level so low, Kim was able to pull his boat up to Lissadell's shore and we could easily get out and walk around the site. Unbelievably being submerged for so many years, there were plenty of remnants to check out. The stockyards, the uprights of the homestead and kitchen, the old wooden stove metal frame, farm machinery, the stone water tank base and the bottled lined garden were still very visible. It was an eerie experience and I likened it to visiting Pompeii.



Stockyards



Uprights and slab of the homestead. Bev Phelts



The stockyards



Stone base for the water tank



The lonely grave of the Lissadell bookkeeper who had only arrived at the Station a week before he died



Janie Mason with Lissadell farm machinery



Lissadell Station –stone water tank base and stockyards



The receding Lake Argyle water at Lissadell

Participants

Many thanks to our wonderful organisers of the trip –

Wendy Carter, Secretary & Andrew Barker, President of the Kununurra Historical Society,

Dr Brian Reid, President; Dr Bev Phelts, Newsletter Editor & Sales; Janie Mason, Secretary and Judy Boland, Committee member of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Dr Lyn Reid, Sheryl & Arthur Keates, Jane Farr and our favourite annual “campy” Dr Ruth Kerr of the Royal Queensland Historical Society