



Tuesday Afternoon

Off to Windorah. Did show at Community Hall. Show enjoyed by 7 kids from this

tiny school. Roped young teacher Miss Cameron into act, as she said also juggled... the kids loved it.

Tuesday Night

Landed in Birdsville. Clouds coming in. Off to The Legendary Birdsville Pub for tea. Bill had rump steak, I had kangaroo. The chef came out to watch if I'd eat it as they always cook Kangaroo rare, but I said I couldn't so he took it, killed it and cooked the Roo thru. Back for bed. Didn't sleep well. Hoping and praying for rain went outside about 2am and felt some sprinkles went back to bed for good sleep.

Wednesday May 2

Wednesday Morning

Got up early to take photos of the Birdsville Lagoon at sunrise. Off to Oodnadatta. Decided to get 'dressed and made up' during the trip as it was going to take about 2 1/2 hours. I watched sand dune after sand dune and then in the middle of that great South Australian desert suddenly 4 or 5 rows of green lush sand dunes. Never seen that before some even had lagoons. Oasis's in the desert. Couldn't see any camels from the plane.



Picked up by Principal Ned who said quite a bit of rain came overnight. Again I found indigenous kids quite shy at Oodnadatta. As we leaving a teacher asked me if I had any spare balloons to make a representation of the Solar System, The price of balloons in Oodnadatta are "over inflated". (There's not much availability of anything in these outback towns)! gave him some long sculpting balloons also, "what are these for" I said the 'rings of Saturn'.

Across Lake Eyre to Marree. Teacher Jane picked us up and took us back to school. Again had very fun show. The view out of the staff room is absolutely fantastic, it's just picture perfect. I asked Bill to take a photo.



Wednesday Afternoon/ Evening

On course to Leigh Creek and Copley. Rev. Arthur Tanner of BCA picked us up and had organized with Pastor Appollus in Copley for a children/family show and BBQ. Kids lovely, mostly indigenous but unusually not so shy. Almost as many adults as kids. Had a lot of fun balloon bending then 'Pentecost Power Show' then unicycle demonstrations.



Thursday May 3

Thursday Morning

Bill got phone call from "Robbo" morning DJ at "Vision FM" asking for interview with 'Goodnews the Clown'. I did a 10 minute phone interview – lots of fun. Arthur dropped us at school. Set up in school hall – lots of kids. Beautiful school in beautiful town. Show was a lot of fun lots of kids. A teachers aide a 'young lady' ask Bill, "how long he had been flying and when he started" she then calculated how old he would be and blurted out with "no way that would make you 72 years old". Bill answered in his English accent Yes I've just turned 72.

"No way" she continued. (Well of course Bill does only look about 60 something. Took a while to get to Hawker slight head wind. Very windy on the ground once we landed.



Thursday Afternoon

Hawker had a lot of rain earlier in the year which washed the bridge. Had

to go slight detour. Always have a lot of fun at Hawker. Kids always seem to come in with tough exteriors, which is great because Goodnews loves a challenge. Once into the show the tough shells crack and all started 'cracking up' – lots of fun. (A good demo of Holy Spirit power.)

Taken back to strip, very windy, blowing about 30 knots. We prayed for wind to drop and it,so we left the Flinders. Perfect take off. Tail wind all the way to Broken Hill. It was a fast trip. Unloaded bags, as army helicopter came in over us, thought he was going to land on us. He sent up quite a dust storm with us in the middle of it. As we walked to terminal, I saw a professional camera crew come out, so I said to Bill lets play up to them. So as we approached... and very loudly... and directly into the camera I started " Hey look Bill wow what a welcome.... we're being covered on national TV"... and I went on and on... (of course). The lady director / producer said "who are you people?" so Bill filled her in, I added to it and she wrote our details down, as though we might be worthy of a story sometime. They were actually there to do a feature on the flying doctor, they were from Granada productions from the UK.



Thursday Evening

Picked up by John Curtis and taken back to their huge church complex. MMM were there working on the building, painting and repairing things. We turned radio on Vision and explored our apartment. Bill yelled "Garry your interview is on!", I rushed back and heard most of that mornings interview. Had a great rest – full evening of fellowship and good nights sleep.



Friday Morning

Off early in morning for flight to Menindee school. Flew over the Menindee Lakes – not much water. Picked up by school bus, two ladies school aides and taken back to school. Set up backdrops and the kids came in. One little girl was very frightened of Goodnews and his noisiness, but later volunteered for balloon blowing competition. (amazing how Goodnews wins them over). On the way back to staffroom I was ambushed by a bunch of high school girls who were bent on trying to tease and torment this "obviously Christian Clown" well naturally "Goodnews" thinks situations like this are just fantastic. Again "Goodnews" won these group of girls over with wit and wackiness. Back to staffroom, Laid hands on & prayed for headmasters feet (gout). He seemed very appreciative.



Friday Afternoon

Last school, Wilcannia, picked up by teacher – nice very friendly young lady, asked "if we'd had lunch?". We replied "we hardly ever have time for lunch" she said she would buy us some and a drink when we go. Audience set up in 'horseshoe' shape around the room. Lots of teachers and about 30 kids. Great show. Several teachers stayed back to express thanks for the show. (Did the same message at every place on this trip although I had about 5 other messages up my sleeve.)

Our lady driver gave us salad sandwiches and water. Took off exactly 3 pm with about a 30 knot tail wind. Straight back to Maitland Airstrip passing over many small outback towns, many dams full and overflowing especially around Dubbo region – very good to see.

Sky very hazy "inversion" hard to see any great distance. It was dark by the time we arrived, strip still busy and lights ablaze. Landed at 5.45 pm. Quickly unpacked so Bill could get off to Sydney and home. Marianne already there.

Available to Serve Jesus through the Gospel – Garry Reynolds
Start prayer 4
Next patrol Oct 2007

