



19th Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference, Mildura

SELF-DRIVE TOURS

TOURS FROM ADELAIDE, SA to MILDURA, VIC

You can design your own tour from these notes! The length of the tour, the route you take and the attractions you wish to visit are all optional!

This set of notes is aimed at people intending to travel from Adelaide to the Conference and Country Weekend in Mildura.

SO LET'S GET STARTED!!

Preamble.

The 395 km drive from Adelaide to Mildura direct on the A20 is the shortest but not the most interesting route to take. The suggested routes below provide three routes covering a number of interesting engineering heritage locations which could take up to four days depending how much time you have. Perhaps you may choose a route for the forward journey and pick up other suggestions on the return. Some delegates from South Australia plan to travel in a convoy. If you wish to join them contact us, heritageconference@engineersaustralia.org.au, and we will pass your details to the tour leader.

The main considerations are;

- Sunday 8th October, The Cobdogla Steam and Irrigation Museum hopes to run the Humphrey pump
- The weekend of October 14th and 15th October is the Engineers Country weekend based in Mildura. So, stay the weekend straight after the conference, enjoy some more Heritage plus fellowship with the Sunraysia Engineers.

Route 1 via Burra and Morgan

Day 1

Leave Adelaide via the A1 and turn right onto the M20 to Gawler. Keep an eye out for old engineering works in Gawler town area as this was the centre of engineering activity in the early days. Leave Gawler on the Barossa Valley Way and head for the Barossa Reservoir. This is a remarkable old dam and famous for its Whispering Wall. It is also of engineering significance and has been recognised in the Heritage Recognition Program.



Barossa Reservoir and the famous Whispering Wall.

Image: Engineers Australia

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/portal/system/files/engineering-heritage-australia/nomination-title/HRP.Barossa%20Dam.Nomination.2002.pdf>

Return to Gawler and take the A32 road north to Tarlee then the B82 to Clare at the heart of the Clare Valley. This is one of South Australia's fine wine making areas and worth some time to look at the vineyards and perhaps visit a couple.

From Clare travel east to Burra. This is an amazing old copper mining town full of relics of the Cornish miners. There are many sights to see and much engineering heritage.

Morphetts Engine House, Burra.
There were many Cornish pumping engines here to dewater the mines. Burra was a rich copper mining centre.

Image: Owen Peake.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burra,_South_Australia



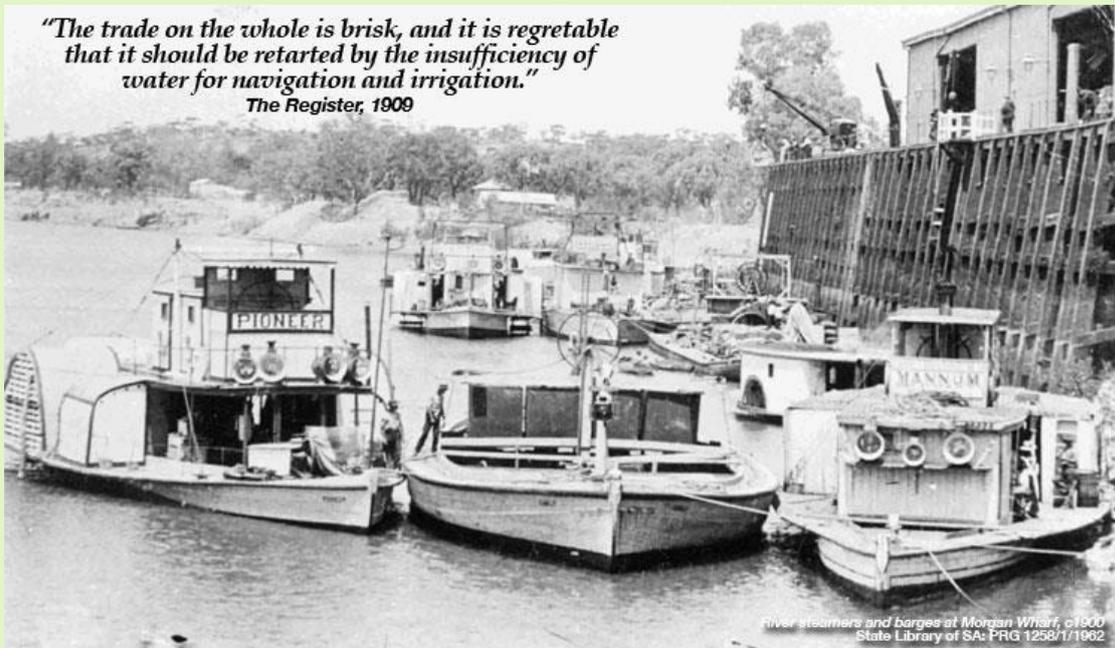
A portion of a Cornish pumping engine foundation stone for the cylinder of the engine. This stone is located in the main street of Burra. The two holes were for hold – down bolts.

Image: Owen Peake.

More about Cornish engines:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornish_engine

Day 2 (or Day 3 if you find Burra very interesting)

Travel from Burra to Morgan on the B64 and have a look at the old wharf precinct at Morgan. This was one of the early connections between rail and rover boat. Parts of the remaining wharf are very old. Overnight at Morgan.



Morgan Wharf in 1900. Image: State Library of SA.

http://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=16296

Day 3

Continue on the B64 to Taylorville and cross the Murray River to Waikerie and continue east on the A20 to Cobdogla. Sunday 8th October, The Cobdogla Steam and Irrigation Museum hopes to run the Humphrey pump. If your timing is right you can arrive at Cobdogla, look at the museum and the Humphrey Pump and continue on to Berri or Renmark to overnight.



The Humphrey Pump at Cobdogla Irrigation Museum. The only operating Humphrey Pump in the world and you might be lucky enough to see it spring into life!!

Image: Miles Pierce.

<http://www.cobdoglasteammuseum.com.au/>

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/portal/system/files/engineering-heritage-australia/nomination-title/Humphrey%20Pumps,%20Cobdogla%20Nomination.pdf>

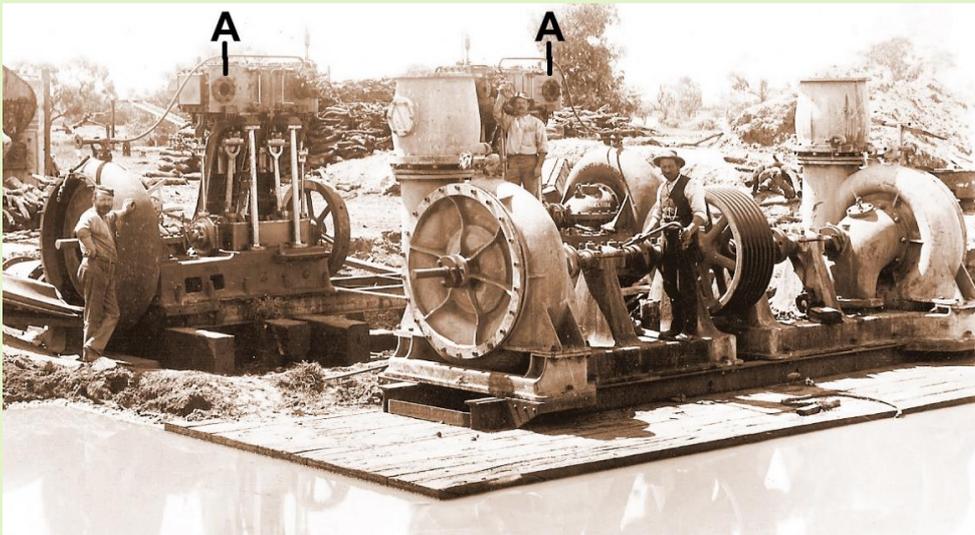
Day 4

There are irrigation relics around Renmark including the steam driven pump at the Renmark Irrigation Trust.

Steam Pumping Engine at the Renmark Irrigation Trust office, 149 Murray Avenue, Renmark.

Image: Owen Peake.

https://www.google.com.au/search?q=renmark+irrigation&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwirydjxgljWAhXBGZQKHT3MCrsQ_AUICygC&biw=1520&bih=921#imgrc=2tTLMq4rlfErPM:&spf=1504407033467



Pumps being installed for irrigation pumping at Renmark, 1894.

Image: Richard Venus

In Renmark, which is a Chaffey irrigation town, there are various heritage and historic locations including; **the Paringa Bridge, Lock 5, the Argo Barge** and other **Chaffey and Irrigation sites.**

From Renmark head east along the A20 (Sturt Highway), cross into Victoria and continue to Cullulleraine, turn left, head down the Lock 9 road (caution unsealed after a few kms).

At **Lock 9** look around, then walk or drive to the Millewa A pump station. You can see the tall stack from lock 9. This boiler and 300 hp Thompson triple expansion steam engine have been restored by the Sunraysia Group of EA and other resoration is ongoing.



Inside Millewa A pumping station. Triple expansion steam engine driving centrifugal pumps.

Image: source unknown.

<http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/327/download-report>

After this visit, retrace your path back to Cullulleraine and turn left and head east to Mildura along the Sturt Highway.

End of Day 4 and arrival in Mildura.

Route 2

This is similar to Route 1 except it takes you to Kapunda instead of the Clare Valley and Burra. After leaving Gawler on the A20 follow signs to Kapunda just a few km north of Gawler.

Kapunda is an old rural and mining town with many interesting relics and evidence of some engineering works. There is an excellent museum in the middle of town.



The 'Big Miner' statue welcomes you to Kapunda.

Image: Australia for Everyone.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kapunda>

After leaving Kapunda re-join the A20 heading east and continue to Waikerie then pick up the rest of the Route 1 itinerary.

Route 3

This is similar to Route 2 but if you are in a bit of a hurry it is shorter as it drops the side trip to Kapunda.

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